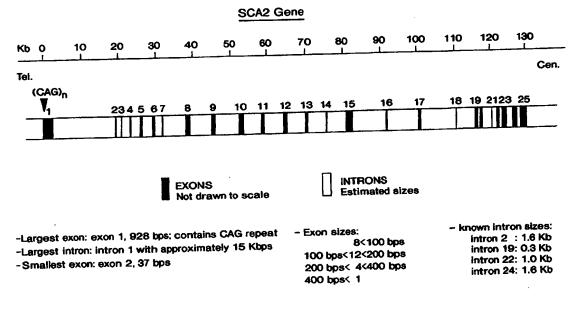
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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING SPINOCEREBE	ELLA	R ATAXIA-2 AND PRODUCTS RELATED THERETO		



(57) Abstract

The present invention provides isolated nucleic acids encoding human SCA2 protein, or fragments thereof, and isolated SCA2 proteins encoded thereby. Further provided are vectors containing invention nucleic acids, probes that hybridize thereto, host cells transformed therewith, antisense oligonucleotides thereto and compositions containing antibodies that specifically bind to invention polypeptides, as well as transgenic non-human mammals that express the invention protein. In addition, methods for diagnosing spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2 are provided.

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NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING SPINOCEREBELLAR ATAXIA-2 AND PRODUCTS RELATED THERETO

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Disorders of the cerebellum and its connections are a major cause of neurologic morbidity and mortality. One of the cardinal features of lesions in these pathways ataxia or incoordination of movements and Although some of the lesions have obvious etiologies such 10 as trauma, strokes or tumors, the etiology of many ataxias has remained difficult to define and is due to metabolic deficiencies, remote effects of cancer or genetic causes. Hereditary spinocerebellar degenerations have a prevalence of 7 - 20 cases per 100,000 (Filla et al., J. of Neurology 15 239(6):351-353 (1992); Polo et al., Brain 114 (pt2):855-866 (1991)) which equals the estimates for the prevalence of multiple sclerosis in the United States Based on clinical analysis and genetic inheritance patterns several forms of Among the genetic causes of ataxias are now recognized. 20 ataxic disorders, the autosomal dominant spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) have been the most difficult to classify and until recently no clues to their cause existed.

progressive degenerative SCAs are 25 The neurological diseases of the nervous system characterized by a progressive degeneration of neurons of the cerebellar Degeneration is also seen in the deep cerebellar nuclei, brain stem, and spinal cord. Clinically, affected individuals suffer from severe ataxia and dysarthria, as 30 well as from variable degrees of motor disturbance and The disease usually results in complete disability and eventually in death 10 to 30 years after The genes for SCA types 1 and 3 have onset of symptoms. been identified. Both contain CAG DNA repeats that cause 35 the disease when expanded. However, little is known how repeat expansion and consequent elongation CAG

polyglutamine tracts translate into neurodegeneration. The identification of the SCA2 gene would provide the opportunity to study this phenomenon in a new protein system.

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The significance of identifying ataxia genes goes beyond improved diagnosis for individuals, the possibility orprenatal/presymptomatic diagnosis Most of the genes associated classification of ataxias. with repeat expansions in the coding region including the genes for SCA1 and SCA3 are genes that show no homology to known genes. Thus, isolation of these genes will likely point to pathways leading to late-onset neurodegeneration importance for may have are novel and neurodegenerative diseases.

For example, it has been suggested that CAG expansion may result in increased transglutamination of proteins, a process that has also been implicated in Alzheimer's disease. The ataxias in particular offer the unique opportunity to study how different genes may either independently or through conjoined action in the same pathway produce relatively similar phenotypes in humans. Therefore, it may be possible to examine the interaction of these genes on age of onset and phenotype, and explain that part of phenotypic variability that is not explained by determining repeat expansion in the mutant allele. Cosmids and YACs have been the main tools for generating contig chromosomal regions and the entire genome, respectively. Recently, novel cloning vectors (reviewed in Ioannou et al., Nat. Genet. 6:84-89 (1994)) have been developed that may be more stable than cosmids, while being considerable larger.

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Several systems of classification have been proposed for the SCAs based on pathological, clinical or genetic criteria. However, these attempts have been

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hampered by the extreme variability of disease onset and clinical features within and between families. Among the dominant ataxias only Machado-Joseph disease (MJD) has been clinically defined as a separate disease based on the prominence of basal ganglia involvement. However, since phenotypic variability is remarkable in MJD pedigrees, the assignment of individual cases or small families to this category is difficult. Indeed, after identification of the MJD locus (SCA3) it has become apparent that families with a phenotype not typical of MJD, but resembling SCAs are linked to the same locus as SCA3 families.

The advent of genetic linkage analysis provided a novel means to approach classification of the SCAs. Since the late 70's it was recognized that some SCA 15 pedigrees appeared to show linkage to the HLA locus on CHR6, while others did not. Later this locus, now called SCA1, was further defined using RFLP and microsatellite markers and was mapped centromeric to the HLA locus. After the establishment of flanking markers for the SCAl gene it 20 became rapidly apparent that many- if not the majority- of SCA families did not show linkage to the SCAl locus. Recently, a second SCA locus was identified on CHR12 using a large pedigree of Cuban descent (Gispert et al., Nat. Genet. 4:295-299 (1993)) and in a pedigree of Southern 25 Italian origin (Pulst et al., Nat. Genet. 5:8-10 (1993)). At the same time a third locus for Machado-Joseph disease and other pedigrees with an SCA phenotype was identified on CHR14 (Takiyama et al, Nat. Genet. 4:300-304 (1993)). Recently, SCA4 was mapped to CHR16 and SCA5 to CHR11 (Ranum 30 et al., Nat. Genet. 8:N3:280-284 (1994)).

Two of the SCA genes have been identified, one by a positional cloning approach, the other by a cDNA based approach. The SCA1 gene was identified by screening a cosmid contig covering the region between the two flanking

markers D6S274 and D6S89 for cosmids containing CAG repeats. A CAG repeat was isolated, and shown to be expanded in affected individuals (Orr et al., Nat. Genet. 4:221-226 (1993); see Table 1). The number of CAG repeats are inversely correlated with the age of onset. Recently, the complete coding sequence for the SCA1 gene has been determined. The gene does not appear to be homologous to other known genes. Despite the tissue specific effects of the mutation, SCA1 transcripts are ubiquitously expressed.

By RT-PCR analysis, normal and mutated transcripts are found in tissues indicating that repeat expansion does not interfere with transcription.

The SCA3 or MJD gene was identified after several

15 CAG containing cDNA clones had been isolated from a brain cDNA library (Kawaguchi et al., Nat. Genet. 8:221-227 (1994)). One of these mapped to CHR 14q32.1, the region previously identified by genetic linkage analysis to contain the SCA3 gene. The CAG repeat was expanded in affected individuals, but appears to show greater meiotic stability than other CAG repeats. The SCA3 gene has no homology to other known genes or motif structures, but related sequences were identified on CHR 8q23, 14q21, and Xp22.1.

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Although not an SCA gene in the strict sense, CAG expansion in the gene causing dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy (DRPLA) may also lead to degeneration of cerebellar neurons. This gene was identified by searching published brain cDNA sequences for the presence of CAG repeats. A cDNA mapped to CHR12p was found to harbor a CAG repeat which was expanded in DRPLA patients (Koide et al., Nat. Genet. 6:9-13 (1994); Nagafuchi et al., Nat. Genet. 6:14-18 (1994)). The gene which has no known homologies is ubiquitously expressed. SCA families linked to markers on CHR 12 have been described in several ethnic backgrounds.

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The largest ones are of Cuban ancestry (H pedigree), (SAK Austrian ancestry French-Canadian and pedigrees, Lopes-Cendes et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 54:774-781 (1994)) and Italian descent (FS pedigree, Pulst et al., (1993)). A smaller Tunisian pedigree has been described as (Belal et al., Neurology 44:1423-1426 (1994)). well Although all pedigrees have cases with early onset in recent generations, a formal age of onset analysis has only been performed for the FS pedigree. This analysis indicated clear evidence of anticipation (Pulst et al., (1993)).

The phenomenon of unstable DNA repeats raises many fascinating issues. For example, in 1991, La Spada et al. identified a polymorphic CAG repeat in the androgen receptor gene on the X chromosome that was greatly expanded in individuals with spinobulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA, Kennedy syndrome). In short succession, a total of ten diseases were found to be caused by trinucleotide repeat (TNR) expansion (Table 1). Although several unifying concepts emerge from the comparison of diseases caused by TNR expansion, important differences can be recognized as well.

25 Common to all diseases is a highly polymorphic number of repeats on normal chromosomes. If the repeat number reaches allele sizes in between normal and disease alleles -termed premutations- the repeat becomes unstable and may expand to the size associated with the disease state. Large number repeats have the tendency to expand further, although decreases in size are occasionally seen (Bruner et al., New Engl. J. Med. 328:476-480 (1993); reviewed in Brook, Nat. Genet. 3:279-152 (1993); Mandel, Nat. Genet. 4:8-9 (1993)).

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TABLE 1:
Characteristics of diseases caused by TNR expansion

_	Disease	Type of of repeat	Location of of repeat	Number of repeats in normal alleles in disease alleles
10	Fragile X syndrome FRAXE FRAXF FRA16A Myotonic dystrophy SBMA Huntington disease CA 1 DRPLA MJD (SCA3)	CGG GCC GCC CTG CAG CAG CAG CAG	5' untr. unknown unknown 3' untr. coding coding coding coding	5 - 54 200 - 200 6 - 25 200 - 80 6 - 29 300 - 500 16 - 49 1000 - 20000 5 - 35 100 - 200 11 - 31 40 - 62 15 - 38 38 - 120 25 - 36 43 - 81 7 - 26 49 - 75 13 - 36 68 - 79

TNR expansion may be a common form of human mutagenesis. Especially if expansion is not restricted to pure CAG and CCG repeats, the number of genes 20 predisposed to expansion may be quite large. diseases with cerebellar degeneration, SCA1, DRPLA, and SCA3 are caused by expansion of a CAG repeat. In these diseases clear evidence of anticipation was lacking, although very early onset cases in some families had 25 raised this question. However, as described in Pulst et al. (1993) strong evidence for anticipation was identified in the FS pedigree with SCA2. Thus, there is a need in the art to identify the location and nucleic acid structure of the SCA2 gene. 30

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides isolated nucleic acids encoding the human SCA2 protein and isolated proteins encoded thereby. Further provided are vectors containing invention nucleic acids, probes that hybridize thereto, host cells transformed therewith, antisense oligonucleotides thereto and compositions containing, antibodies that specifically bind to invention polypeptides and compositions containing, as well as transgenic non-human mammals that express the invention protein. In addition, methods for diagnosing

spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2, or a presisposition thereto, are provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

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Figure 1 shows a physical map of the SCA2 The location of D12S1328 centromeric and D12S1329 telomeric of the contig are indicated. As indicated by double forward slashes, the map is not drawn to scale between D12S1328 and P46F2t7, and between 10 B78E14t7 and D12S1329. YAC, PAC and BAC clones are prefixed with 'Y', 'P', and 'B' respectively. Clones positive for a specific STS by PCR analysis are indicated by vertical lines. Solid arrows indicate end-STSs from the clone under the symbol. Sizes of all clones are 15 shown to scale. The chimeric part of YAC clone 856 $h_2(1,100 \text{ kb})$ is indicated by a dashed arrow. Interstitial deletions in YACs or PACs are indicated by thin lines in brackets. The extent of the deletion in YAC Y638 _e_7 is not precisely known. 20

Figure 2 shows the nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) of plasmid PL65I22B for genomic DNA encoding the expansion of the CAG repeat in individuals with SCA2.

Nucleotides 1 - 499 of Figure 2 correspond to cDNA nucleotides 392 - 890 of Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:2). The locations of primers SCA2-A and SCA2-B are indicated by arrows. The location of a predicted splice site is indicated by a vertical arrow between nucleotides 499 and 500 (also compare with Figure 6).

Figure 3 shows an analysis of the SCA2 CAG repeat by polyacrylamide electrophoresis. A common allele of 22 repeats and a less frequent allele of 23 repeats (samples 14 and 15) are seen in normal individuals. SCA2 patients with extended alleles form 37

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to 52 repeats are shown. SCA2 patients derive from two pedigrees with CHR 12 linked dominant ataxia. The pedigree structures are shown at the top. Genomic DNAs were amplified with primers SCA2-A and SCA2-B and separated in a 6% polyacrylamide gel. Primer SCA2-A was end-labeled. As a size standard, single stranded M13mp18 control DNA was sequenced with sequencing primer "-40" provided by USB (United States Biochem.).

10 Figure 4 shows a Scattergram indicating that CAG repeat length and age-of-onset of disease in 33 SCA2 patients are inversely correlated.

Figure 5 shows four cDNA clones as a schematic

of the composite SCA2 cDNA sequence. The thick line corresponds to coding sequence, the thin line to untranslated regions. The location of the CAG repeat is indicated by a hatched box. In clone S2, the repeat was not a CAG, but a CTG repeat followed by 12 bp of sequence not contained in any of the other cDNA clones.

Figure 6 shows the composite cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) obtained from assembly of the partially overlapping cDNA clones shown in Figure 5. The predicted SCA2 protein product (SEQ ID NO:3) is shown below the DNA sequence. The stop codon for the SCA2 cDNA is indicated by *. The locations of primers SCA2-A, SCA2-B, and SCA2-B14 are indicated by horizontal arrows. The splice site between primers SCA2-B and SCA2-B14 is indicated by a vertical arrow.

Figure 7 shows a partial amino acid sequence alignment comparison of ataxin-2 protein, the ataxin-2 related protein (A2RP), and the mouse SCA2 homologue in the region of strongest homology. Codon 1 corresponds to codon 155 in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:3).

Figure 8 shows the genomic structure of the SCA2 gene.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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The hereditary ataxias are a complex group of neurodegenerative disorders all characterized by varying abnormalities of balance attributed to dysfunction or pathology of the cerebellum and cerebellar pathways. In many of these disorders, dysfunction or structural abnormalities extend beyond the cerebellum, and may involve basal ganglia function, oculo-motor disorders and neuropathy. Among the inherited ataxias, the classification of dominant adult onset ataxias is particularly controversial with regard to nomenclature, 15 associated findings and pathology. The dominant spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) represent a phenotypically heterogeneous group of disorders with a prevalence of familial cases of approximately 1 per 100,000. group of disorders is also designated as olivo-ponto-20 cerebellar atrophies (OPCAs), although this term is too restrictive a pathological label.

The high phenotypic variability within single SCA pedigrees has made clinical classification of 25 different forms of ataxia difficult. The gene causing SCA1 has been identified on CHR 6p and the SCA3 gene has been identified on CHR 14q. These diseases are caused by expansion of a CAG repeat in the coding region of the However, many SCA pedigrees do not show linkage 30 to CHR 6p or CHR 14q, confirming the presence of nonallelic heterogeneity. Subsequent genetic linkage studies have led to the identification of SCA loci on CHR12 and some families do not show linkage to either of the above three chromosomal regions. 35

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Described in the instant specification is the construction of the BAC (Bacterial Artificial Chromosome) Shizuya et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:8794-8797 (1992) contig and PAC (Pl Artificial Chromosome) of the SCA2 region and the isolation of a novel SCA2 gene from this contiguous map unit using a technique that screens for the presence of DNA trinucleotide repeats.

the CAG repeat revealed an open reading frame of 317 base pairs (Figure 2). A homology search of the amino acid sequence of this open reading frame (ORF) with genes registered in Genbank/EMBL and search of the TIGR database showed no homologous proteins or homologous genomic DNA sequences. Using reverse-transcribed PCR (polymerase chain reaction) with primers SCA1-A and SCA1-B, the genomic sequence containing the CAG repeat was shown to be expressed into mRNA. Subsequently, cDNA encoding human and mouse SCA2 has been isolated as described hereinafter in Examples 4 and 7, respectively.

Accordingly, the present invention provides isolated nucleic acids, which encode a novel mammalian SCA2 protein, and fragments thereof. Such nucleic acids can be obtained, for example, from human chromosome 12, specifically at the q24.1 locus, which is the site of mutation(s) that cause SCA2.

The term "nucleic acids" (also referred to as
polynucleotides) encompasses RNA as well as single and
double-stranded DNA and cDNA. As used herein, the phrase
"isolated" means a nucleic acid that is in a form that
does not occur in nature. One means of isolating a
nucleic acid encoding an SCA2 polypeptide is to probe a
mammalian genomic library with a natural or artificially
designed DNA probe using methods well known in the art.
DNA probes derived from the SCA2 gene are particularly

useful for this purpose. DNA and cDNA molecules that encode SCA2 polypeptides can be used to obtain complementary genomic DNA, cDNA or RNA from human, mammalian (e.g., mouse, rat, rabbit, pig, and the like), or other animal sources, or to isolate related cDNA or genomic clones by the screening of cDNA or genomic libraries, by methods described in more detail below. Examples of nucleic acids are RNA, cDNA, or isolated genomic DNA encoding an SCA2 polypeptide. Such invention nucleic acids may include, but are not limited to, 10 nucleic acids having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as nucleotides 163-4098 set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6), or at least nucleotides 163-657 or nucleotides 724-4098 of SEQ ID NO:2; or nucleotides 50-3454 of SEO ID NO:4. In a preferred embodiment, 15 invention nucleic acids include the same nucleotide sequence as nucleotides 163-4098 of SEQ ID NO:2, or include the same nucleotide sequence as nucleotides 50-3454 of SEQ ID NO:4.

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As employed herein, the phrase "substantially the same nucleotide sequence" refers to DNA having sufficient homology to the reference polynucleotide, such that it will hybridize to the reference nucleotide under typical moderate stringency conditions. 25 embodiment, nucleic acid molecules having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as the reference nucleotide sequence encodes substantially the same amino acid sequence as that of either SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5. In another embodiment, DNA having "substantially the same 30 nucleotide sequence" as the reference nucleotide sequence has at least 60% homology with respect to the reference nucleotide sequence. DNA having at least 70%, more preferably 80%, yet more preferably 90%, homology to the reference nucleotide sequence is preferred. 35

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This invention also encompasses nucleic acids which differ from the nucleic acids shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4, but which have the same phenotype. Phenotypically similar nucleic acids are also referred to as "functionally equivalent nucleic acids". As used herein, the phrase "functionally equivalent nucleic acids" encompasses nucleic acids characterized by slight and non-consequential sequence variations that will function in substantially the same manner to produce the same protein product(s) as the nucleic acids disclosed herein. In particular, functionally equivalent nucleic acids encode polypeptides that are the same as those disclosed herein or that have conservative amino acid variations. For example, conservative variations include substitution of a non-polar residue with another non-polar residue, or substitution of a charged residue with a similarly charged residue. These variations include those recognized by skilled artisans as those that do not substantially alter the tertiary structure of the protein.

Further provided are nucleic acids encoding SCA2 polypeptides that, by virtue of the degeneracy of the genetic code, do not necessarily hybridize to the invention nucleic acids under specified hybridization conditions. Preferred nucleic acids encoding the invention polypeptide are comprised of nucleotides that encode substantially the same amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 (Figure 6), or SEQ ID NO:5.

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As employed herein, the term "substantially the same amino acid sequence" refers to amino acid sequences having at least about 70% identity with respect to the reference amino acid sequence, and retaining comparable functional and biological properties characteristic of the protein defined by the reference amino acid sequence. Preferably, proteins having "substantially the same amino

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acid sequence" will have at least about 80%, more preferably 90% amino acid identity with respect to the reference amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5); with greater than about 95% amino acid sequence identity being especially preferred.

Alternatively, preferred nucleic acids encoding the invention polypeptide(s) hybridize under moderately stringent, preferably high stringency, conditions to substantially the entire sequence, or substantial portions (i.e., typically at least 15-30 nucleotides) of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6) or SEQ ID NO:4.

15 Stringency of hybridization, as used herein, refers to conditions under which polynucleotide hybrids are stable. As known to those of skill in the art, the stability of hybrids is a function of sodium ion concentration and temperature (See, for example, Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual 2d Ed. (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, (1989); incorporated herein by reference). Stringency levels used to hybridize a given probe with target-DNA can be readily varied by those of skill in the art.

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As used herein, the phrase "moderately stringent" hybridization refers to conditions that permit target-DNA to bind a complementary nucleic acid that has about 60%, preferably about 75%, more preferably about 85%, homology (i.e., identity) to the target DNA; with greater than about 90% homology to target-DNA being especially preferred. Preferably, moderately stringent conditions are conditions equivalent to hybridization in 50% formamide, 5X Denhart's solution, 5X SSPE, 0.2% SDS at 42°C, followed by washing in 0.2X SSPE, 0.2% SDS, at 65°C. Denhart's solution and SSPE (see, e.g., Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring

Harbor Laboratory Press, (1989)) are well known to those of skill in the art as are other suitable hybridization buffers.

Also provided are isolated SCA2 peptides, polypeptides(s) and/or protein(s), or fragments thereof, encoded by the invention nucleic acids.

As used herein, the term "isolated" means a protein molecule free of cellular components and/or 10 contaminants normally associated with a native in vivo environment. Invention polypeptides and/or proteins include any isolated natural occurring allelic variant, as well as recombinant forms thereof. The SCA2 polypeptides can be isolated using various methods well 15 known to a person of skill in the art. The methods available for the isolation and purification of invention proteins include, precipitation, gel filtration, ionexchange, reverse-phase and affinity chromatography. Other well-known methods are described in Deutscher et 20 al., Guide to Protein Purification: Methods in Enzymology Vol. 182, (Academic Press, (1990)), which is incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, the isolated polypeptides of the present invention can be obtained using well-known recombinant methods as 25 described, for example, in Sambrook et al., supra., 1989).

An example of the means for preparing the
invention polypeptide(s) is to express nucleic acids
encoding the SCA2 in a suitable host cell, such as a
bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an amphibian cell (i.e.,
cocyte), or a mammalian cell, using methods well known in
the art, and recovering the expressed polypeptide, again
using well-known methods. Invention polypeptides can be
isolated directly from cells that have been transformed

with expression vectors, described below in more detail. The invention polypeptide, biologically active fragments, and functional equivalents thereof can also be produced by chemical synthesis. For example, synthetic polypeptides can be produced using Applied Biosystems, Inc. Model 430A or 431A automatic peptide synthesizer (Foster City, CA) employing the chemistry provided by the manufacturer.

As used herein, the phrase "SCA2" refers to 10 substantially pure native SCA2 protein, or recombinantly expressed/produced (i.e., isolated or substantially pure) proteins, including variants thereof encoded by mRNA generated by alternative splicing of a primary transcript, and further including fragments thereof which 15 retain native biological activity. Preferred invention polypeptides are those that contain substantially the same amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 (Figure 6), or at least amino acids 1-165 or amino acids 188-1312 of SEQ ID NO:3, or include substantially the same amino 20 acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5. As used herein, the phrase "functional polypeptide" means a SCA2 that can produce an anti-SCA2 antibody that binds to the native SCA2 protein or to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 (Figure 6), or SEQ ID NO:5. In a preferred 25 embodiment, invention polypeptides include the same amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5.

Modification of the invention nucleic acids,

polypeptides or proteins with the following phrases:
 "recombinantly expressed/produced", "isolated", or
 "substantially pure", encompasses nucleic acids,
 peptides, polypeptides or proteins that have been
 produced in such form by the hand of man, and are thus

separated from their native in vivo cellular environment.

As a result of this human intervention, the recombinant
 nucleic acids, polypeptides and proteins of the invention

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are useful in ways that the corresponding naturally occurring molecules are not, such as identification of selective drugs or compounds.

Sequences having "substantially the same sequence" homology are intended to refer to nucleotide sequences that share at least about 75%, preferably about 80%, yet more preferably about 90% identity with invention nucleic acids; and amino acid sequences that typically share at least about 75%, preferably about 85%, yet more preferably about 95% amino acid identity with invention polypeptides. It is recognized, however, that polypeptides or nucleic acids containing less than the above-described levels of homology arising as splice variants or that are modified by conservative amino acid 15 substitutions, or by substitution of degenerate codons are also encompassed within the scope of the present invention.

The present invention provides the isolated 20 polynucleotide encoding SCA2 operatively linked to a promoter of RNA transcription, as well as other regulatory sequences. As used herein, the phrase "operatively linked" refers to the functional relationship of the polynucleotide with regulatory and 25 effector sequences of nucleotides, such as promoters, enhancers, transcriptional and translational stop sites, and other signal sequences. For example, operative linkage of a polynucleotide to a promoter refers to the physical and functional relationship between the 30 polynucleotide and the promoter such that transcription of DNA is initiated from the promoter by an RNA polymerase that specifically recognizes and binds to the promoter, and wherein the promoter directs the transcription of RNA from the polynucleotide. 35

Promoter regions include specific sequences that are sufficient for RNA polymerase recognition, binding and transcription initiation. Additionally, promoter regions include sequences that modulate the recognition, binding and transcription initiation activity of RNA polymerase. Such sequences may be cis acting or may be responsive to trans acting factors.

Depending upon the nature of the regulation, promoters may be constitutive or regulated. Examples of promoters are SP6, T4, T7, SV40 early promoter, cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter, mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV) steroid-inducible promoter, Moloney murine leukemia virus (MMLV) promoter, and the like.

Vectors that contain both a promoter and a 15 cloning site into which a polynucleotide can be operatively linked are well known in the art. Such vectors are capable of transcribing RNA in vitro or in vivo, and are commercially available from sources such as Stratagene (La Jolla, CA) and Promega Biotech (Madison, 20 In order to optimize expression and/or in vitro transcription, it may be necessary to remove, add or alter 5' and/or 3' untranslated portions of the clones to eliminate extra, potential inappropriate alternative translation initiation codons or other sequences that may 25 interfere with or reduce expression, either at the level of transcription or translation. Alternatively, consensus ribosome binding sites can be inserted immediately 5' of the start codon to enhance expression. (See, for example, Kozak, J. Biol. Chem. 266:19867 30 Similarly, alternative codons, encoding the same amino acid, can be substituted for coding sequences of the SCA2 polypeptide in order to enhance transcription (e.g., the codon preference of the host cell can be adopted, the presence of G-C rich domains can be reduced, 35 and the like).

Also provided are vectors comprising invention nucleic acids. Examples of vectors are viruses, such as baculoviruses and retroviruses, bacteriophages, cosmids, plasmids and other recombination vehicles typically used in the art. Polynucleotides are inserted into vector 5 genomes using methods well known in the art. example, insert and vector DNA can be contacted, under suitable conditions, with a restriction enzyme to create complementary ends on each molecule that can pair with each other and be joined together with a ligase. 10 Alternatively, synthetic nucleic acid linkers can be ligated to the termini of restricted polynucleotide. These synthetic linkers contain nucleic acid sequences that correspond to a particular restriction site in the vector DNA. 15

Additionally, an oligonucleotide containing a termination codon and an appropriate restriction site can be ligated for insertion into a vector containing, for example, some or all of the following: a selectable 20 marker gene, such as the neomycin gene for selection of stable or transient transfectants in mammalian cells; enhancer/promoter sequences from the immediate early gene of human CMV for high levels of transcription; transcription termination and RNA processing signals from 25 SV40 for mRNA stability; SV40 polyoma origins of replication and ColE1 for proper episomal replication; versatile multiple cloning sites; and T7 and SP6 RNA promoters for in vitro transcription of sense and antisense RNA. Other means are well known and available 30 in the art.

Further provided are vectors comprising nucleic acids encoding SCA2 polypeptides, adapted for expression in a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an amphibian cell (i.e., oocyte), a mammalian cell and other animal cells. The vectors additionally comprise the regulatory elements

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necessary for expression of the nucleic acid in the bacterial, yeast, amphibian, mammalian or animal cells so located relative to the nucleic acid encoding SCA2 polypeptide as to permit expression thereof.

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As used herein, "expression" refers to the process by which nucleic acids are transcribed into mRNA and translated into peptides, polypeptides, or proteins. If the nucleic acid is derived from genomic DNA, expression may include splicing of the mRNA, if an appropriate eucaryotic host is selected. Regulatory elements required for expression include promoter sequences to bind RNA polymerase and transcription initiation sequences for ribosome binding. For example, a bacterial expression vector includes a promoter such as the lac promoter and for transcription initiation the 15 Shine-Dalgarno sequence and the start codon AUG (Sambrook Similarly, a eucaryotic expression vector includes a heterologous or homologous promoter for RNA et al. supra). polymerase II, a downstream polyadenylation signal, the start codon AUG, and a termination codon for detachment 20 of the ribosome. Such vectors can be obtained commercially or assembled by the sequences described in methods well known in the art, for example, the methods described above for constructing vectors in general. Expression vectors are useful to produce cells that express the invention polypeptide.

The present invention provides transformed host cells that recombinantly express SCA2 polypeptides. An example of a transformed host cell is a mammalian cell 30 comprising a plasmid adapted for expression in a mammalian cell. The plasmid contains nucleic acid encoding an SCA2 polypeptide and the regulatory elements 35 necessary for expression of invention proteins. Various mammalian cells may be utilized as hosts, including, for example, mouse fibroblast cell NIH3T3, CHO cells, HeLa

cells, Ltk- cells, etc. Expression plasmids such as those described supra can be used to transfect mammalian cells by methods well known in the art such as, for example, calcium phosphate precipitation, DEAE-dextran, electroporation, microinjection or lipofection.

The present invention provides nucleic acid probes comprising nucleotide sequences capable of specifically hybridizing with sequences included within nucleic acids encoding SCA2 polypeptides, for example, a 10 coding sequence included within the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6), or SEQ ID NO:4. preferred embodiment, the probe is derived from the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or at least nucleotides 163-657 or nucleotides 724-4098 of SEQ 15 ID NO:2; or SEQ ID NO:4. Preferred regions from which to construct probes include 5' and/or 3' coding sequences, sequences within the ORF, and the like. Fulllength or fragments of cDNA clones encoding SCA2 can also be used as probes for the detection and isolation of 20 related genes. As used herein, an invention "probe" or invention oligonucleotide is a single-stranded DNA or RNA that has a sequence of nucleotides that includes at least about 15 contiguous bases up to the full length coding region of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4. Preferably an 25 invention probe is at least about 30 contiguous bases, more preferably at least about 50, yet more preferably at least about 100, with about 300 contiguous bases up to the full length coding region of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4 being especially preferred. When fragments are used 30 as probes, preferably the cDNA sequences will be from the carboxyl end-encoding portion of the cDNA, and most preferably will include predicted transmembrane domainencoding portions of the cDNA sequence. Transmembrane domain regions can be predicted based on hydropathy 35 analysis of the deduced amino acid sequence using, for

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example, the method of Kyte and Doolittle, J. Mol. Biol. 157:105 (1982).

As used herein, the phrase "specifically 5 hybridizing" encompasses the ability of a polynucleotide to recognize a sequence of nucleic acids that are complementary thereto and to form double-helical segments via hydrogen bonding between complementary base pairs. Nucleic acid probe technology is well known to those 10 skilled in the art who will readily appreciate that such probes may vary greatly in length and may be labeled with a detectable agent, such as a radioisotope, a fluorescent dye, and the like, to facilitate detection of the probe. Invention probes are useful to detect the presence of 15 nucleic acids encoding the SCA2 polypeptide. example, the probes can be used for in situ hybridizations in order to locate biological tissues in which the invention gene is expressed. Additionally, synthesized oligonucleotides complementary to the nucleic 20 acids of a nucleotide sequence encoding SCA2 polypeptide are useful as probes for detecting the invention genes, their associated mRNA, or for the isolation of related genes using homology screening of genomic or cDNA libraries, or by using amplification techniques well 25 known to one of skill in the art.

Also provided are antisense oligonucleotides having a sequence capable of binding specifically with any portion of an mRNA that encodes SCA2 polypeptides so as to prevent or inhibit translation of the mRNA. The antisense oligonucleotide may have a sequence capable of binding specifically with any portion of the sequence of the cDNA encoding SCA2 polypeptides. As used herein, the phrase "binding specifically" encompasses the ability of a nucleic acid sequence to recognize a complementary nucleic acid sequence and to form double-helical segments therewith via the formation of hydrogen bonds between the

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complementary base pairs. An example of an antisense oligonucleotide is an antisense oligonucleotide comprising chemical analogs of nucleotides.

5 Compositions comprising an amount of the antisense oligonucleotide, described above, effective to reduce expression of SCA2 polypeptides by passing through a cell membrane and binding specifically with mRNA encoding SCA2 polypeptides so as to prevent translation 10 and an acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through a cell membrane are also provided herein. acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through cell membranes may also comprise a structure which binds to a receptor specific for a selected cell type and is thereby taken up by cells of the selected cell type. 15 structure may be part of a protein known to bind to a cell-type specific receptor.

Antisense oligonucleotide compositions are
useful to inhibit translation of mRNA encoding invention
polypeptides. Synthetic oligonucleotides, or other
antisense chemical structures are designed to bind to
mRNA encoding SCA2 polypeptides and inhibit translation
of mRNA and are useful as compositions to inhibit
expression of SCA2 associated genes in a tissue sample or
in a subject.

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, kits for detecting mutations and aneuploidies in chromosome 12 at locus q24.1 comprising at least one invention probe or antisense nucleotide.

The present invention provides means to modulate levels of expression of SCA2 polypeptides by employing synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compositions (hereinafter SAGC) which inhibit translation of mRNA encoding these polypeptides. Synthetic

oligonucleotides, or other antisense chemical structures designed to recognize and selectively bind to mRNA, are constructed to be complementary to portions of the SCA2 coding strand or nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4. The SAOC is designed to be stable in the blood stream for administration to a subject by injection, or in laboratory cell culture conditions. SAOC is designed to be capable of passing through the cell membrane in order to enter the cytoplasm of the cell by virtue of physical and chemical properties of the SAOC 10 which render it capable of passing through cell membranes, for example, by designing small, hydrophobic SAOC chemical structures, or by virtue of specific transport systems in the cell which recognize and transport the SAOC into the cell. In addition, the SAOC 15 can be designed for administration only to certain selected cell populations by targeting the SAOC to be recognized by specific cellular uptake mechanisms which bind and take up the SAOC only within select cell 20 populations.

For example, the SAOC may be designed to bind to a receptor found only in a certain cell type, as The SAOC is also designed to recognize discussed supra. and selectively bind to target mRNA sequence, which may 25 correspond to a sequence contained within the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4. The SAOC is designed to inactivate target mRNA sequence by either binding thereto and inducing degradation of the mRNA by, for example, RNase I digestion, or inhibiting translation 30 of mRNA target sequence by interfering with the binding of translation-regulating factors or ribosomes, or inclusion of other chemical structures, such as ribozyme sequences or reactive chemical groups which either degrade or chemically modify the target mRNA. SAOCs have 35 been shown to be capable of such properties when directed against mRNA targets (see Cohen et al., TIPS, 10:435

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(1989) and Weintraub, Sci. American, January (1990), pp.40; both incorporated herein by reference).

The present invention also provides compositions containing an acceptable carrier and any of an isolated, purified SCA2 polypeptide, an active fragment thereof, or a purified, mature protein and active fragments thereof, alone or in combination with each other. These polypeptides or proteins can be recombinantly derived, chemically synthesized or purified from native sources. As used herein, the term "acceptable carrier" encompasses any of the standard pharmaceutical carriers, such as phosphate buffered saline solution, water and emulsions such as an oil/water or water/oil emulsion, and various types of wetting agents.

Further provided are anti-SCA2 antibodies having specific reactivity with SCA2 polypeptides of the present invention. Active fragments of antibodies are 20 encompassed within the definition of "antibody". Invention antibodies can be produced by methods known in the art using invention polypeptides, proteins or portions thereof as antigens. For example, polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies can be produced by methods well 25 known in the art, as described, for example, in Harlow and Lane, Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988)), which is incorporated herein by reference. Invention polypeptides can be used as immunogens in generating such antibodies. Alternatively, 30 synthetic peptides can be prepared (using commercially available synthesizers) and used as immunogens. acid sequences can be analyzed by methods well known in the art to determine whether they encode hydrophobic or hydrophilic domains of the corresponding polypeptide. 35 Altered antibodies such as chimeric, humanized, CDRgrafted or bifunctional antibodies can also be produced

by methods well known in the art. Such antibodies can also be produced by hybridoma, chemical synthesis or recombinant methods described, for example, in Sambrook et al., supra., and Harlow and Lane, supra. Both antipeptide and anti-fusion protein antibodies can be used. (see, for example, Bahouth et al., Trends Pharmacol. Sci. 12:338 (1991); Ausubel et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (John Wiley and Sons, NY (1989) which are incorporated herein by reference).

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Invention antibodies also can be used to isolate invention polypeptides. Additionally the antibodies are useful for detecting the presence of invention polypeptides, as well as analysis of chromosome localization, and structural as well as functional 15 Methods for detecting the presence of SCA2 polypeptides on the surface of a cell comprise contacting the cell with an antibody that specifically binds to SCA2 polypeptides, under conditions permitting binding of the antibody to the polypeptides, detecting the presence of 20 the antibody bound to the cell, and thereby detecting the presence of invention polypeptides on the surface of the cell. With respect to the detection of such polypeptides, the antibodies can be used for in vitro 25 diagnostic or in vivo imaging methods.

Immunological procedures useful for in vitro

detection of target SCA2 polypeptides in a sample include
immunoassays that employ a detectable antibody. Such

immunoassays include, for example, ELISA, Pandex
microfluorimetric assay, agglutination assays, flow
cytometry, serum diagnostic assays and
immunohistochemical staining procedures which are well
known in the art. An antibody can be made detectable by

various means well known in the art. For example, a
detectable marker can be directly or indirectly attached

to the antibody. Useful markers include, for example, radionucleotides, enzymes, fluorogens, chromogens and chemiluminescent labels.

5 Further, invention antibodies can be used to modulate the activity of the SCA2 polypeptide in living animals, in humans, or in biological tissues or fluids isolated therefrom. Accordingly, compositions comprising a carrier and an amount of an antibody having specificity 10 for SCA2 polypeptides effective to block binding of naturally occurring ligands to invention polypeptides. Α monoclonal antibody directed to an epitope of SCA2 polypeptide molecules present on the surface of a cell and having an amino acid sequence substantially the same 15 as an amino acid sequence for a cell surface epitope of an SCA2 polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5, can be useful for this purpose.

The present invention further provides 20 transgenic non-human mammals that are capable of expressing nucleic acids encoding SCA2 polypeptides. Also provided are transgenic non-human mammals capable of expressing nucleic acids encoding SCA2 polypeptides so mutated as to be incapable of normal activity, i.e., do 25 not express native SCA2. The present invention also provides transgenic non-human mammals having a genome comprising antisense nucleic acids complementary to nucleic acids encoding SCA2 polypeptides so placed as to be transcribed into antisense mRNA complementary to mRNA 30 encoding SCA2 polypeptides, which hybridizes thereto and, thereby, reduces the translation thereof. The nucleic acid may additionally comprise an inducible promoter and/or tissue specific regulatory elements, so that expression can be induced, or restricted to specific cell 35 types. Examples of nucleic acids are DNA or cDNA having a coding sequence substantially the same as the coding sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.

example of a non-human transgenic mammal is a transgenic mouse. Examples of tissue specificity-determining elements are the metallothionein promoter and the L7 promoter.

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Animal model systems which elucidate the physiological and behavioral roles of SCA2 polypeptides are produced by creating transgenic animals in which the expression of the SCA2 polypeptide is altered using a variety of techniques. Examples of such techniques include the insertion of normal or mutant versions of nucleic acids encoding an SCA2 polypeptide by microinjection, retroviral infection or other means well known to those skilled in the art, into appropriate fertilized embryos to produce a transgenic animal. (See, for example, Hogan et al., Manipulating the Mouse Embryo: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, (1986)).

Another technique, homologous recombination of 20 mutant or normal versions of these genes with the native gene locus in transgenic animals, may be used to alter the regulation of expression or the structure of SCA2 polypeptides (see, Capecchi et al., Science 244:1288 (1989); Zimmer et al., Nature 338:150 (1989); which are 25 incorporated herein by reference). Homologous recombination techniques are well known in the art. Homologous recombination replaces the native (endogenous) gene with a recombinant or mutated gene to produce an animal that cannot express native (endogenous) protein 30 but can express, for example, a mutated protein which results in altered expression of SCA2 polypeptides.

In contrast to homologous recombination,

35 microinjection adds genes to the host genome, without removing host genes. Microinjection can produce a

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transgenic animal that is capable of expressing both endogenous and exogenous SCA2 protein. Inducible promoters can be linked to the coding region of nucleic acids to provide a means to regulate expression of the transgene. Tissue specific regulatory elements can be linked to the coding region to permit tissue-specific expression of the transgene. Transgenic animal model systems are useful for in vivo screening of compounds for identification of specific ligands, i.e., agonists and antagonists, which activate or inhibit protein responses.

Invention nucleic acids, oligonucleotides (including antisense), vectors containing same, transformed host cells, polypeptides and combinations thereof, as well as antibodies of the present invention, can be used to screen compounds in vitro to determine whether a compound functions as a potential agonist or antagonist to invention polypeptides. These in vitro screening assays provide information regarding the function and activity of invention polypeptides, which can lead to the identification and design of compounds that are capable of specific interaction with one or more types of polypeptides, peptides or proteins.

In accordance with still another embodiment of 25 the present invention, there is provided a method for identifying compounds which bind to SCA2 polypeptides. The invention proteins may be employed in a competitive binding assay. Such an assay can accommodate the rapid screening of a large number of compounds to determine 30 which compounds, if any, are capable of binding to SCA2 Subsequently, more detailed assays can be proteins. carried out with those compounds found to bind, to further determine whether such compounds act as modulators, agonists or antagonists of invention 35 proteins.

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In another embodiment of the invention, there is provided a bioassay for identifying compounds which modulate the activity of invention polypeptides.

According to this method, invention polypeptides are contacted with an "unknown" or test substance (in the presence of a reporter gene construct when antagonist activity is tested), the activity of the polypeptide is monitored subsequent to the contact with the "unknown" or test substance, and those substances which cause the reporter gene construct to be expressed are identified as functional ligands for SCA2 polypeptides.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, transformed host cells that

15 recombinantly express invention polypeptides can be contacted with a test compound, and the modulating effect(s) thereof can then be evaluated by comparing the SCA2-mediated response (via reporter gene expression) in the presence and absence of test compound, or by comparing the response of test cells or control cells (i.e., cells that do not express SCA2 polypeptides), to the presence of the compound.

As used herein, a compound or a signal that "modulates the activity" of invention polypeptides refers 25 to a compound or a signal that alters the activity of SCA2 polypeptides so that the activity of the invention polypeptide is different in the presence of the compound or signal than in the absence of the compound or signal. In particular, such compounds or signals include agonists 30 and antagonists. An agonist encompasses a compound or a signal that activates SCA2 protein expression. Alternatively, an antagonist includes a compound or signal that interferes with SCA2 protein expression. Typically, the effect of an antagonist is observed as a 35 blocking of agonist-induced protein activation. Antagonists include competitive and non-competitive

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antagonists. A competitive antagonist (or competitive blocker) interacts with or near the site specific for agonist binding. A non-competitive antagonist or blocker inactivates the function of the polypeptide by interacting with a site other than the agonist interaction site.

As understood by those of skill in the art, assay methods for identifying compounds that modulate SCA2 activity generally require comparison to a control. One type of a "control" is a cell or culture that is treated substantially the same as the test cell or test culture exposed to the compound, with the distinction that the "control" cell or culture is not exposed to the compound. For example, in methods that use voltage clamp electrophysiological procedures, the same cell can be tested in the presence or absence of compound, by merely changing the external solution bathing the cell. Another type of "control" cell or culture may be a cell or culture that is identical to the transfected cells, with the exception that the "control" cell or culture do not express native proteins. Accordingly, the response of the transfected cell to compound is compared to the response (or lack thereof) of the "control" cell or culture to the same compound under the same reaction conditions.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the activation of SCA2 polypeptides can be modulated by contacting the polypeptides with an effective amount of at least one compound identified by the above-described bioassays.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided methods for diagnosing spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2, said method comprising:

detecting, in said subject, a genomic or transcribed mRNA sequence having an expanded CAG repeat at a location corresponding to between nucleotides 657 and 724 of SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6).

The number of CAG repeats required to indicate spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2 is substantially above normal, preferably at least about 10-15 CAG repeats above normal, with at least 13 CAG repeats above normal being especially preferred. A normal amount of CAG repeats in the SCA2 gene (SEQ ID NO:2) has been found to be about 22, while 23 CAG repeats is occasionally observed. Thus, in a preferred diagnostic method, at least about 35 CAG repeats are detected between nucleotides 657 and 724 of SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6), with the detection of 37 CAG repeats being especially preferred.

Although expansion of trinucleotide repeats is now recognized as an important mutational mechanism in 20 humans and SCA2 represents the 6th disease in which expansion of a CAG trinucleotide repeat causes disease, there are several features of the SCA2 repeat that appear to be unique. In the other five CAG expansion diseases, 25 the CAG repeats on normal chromosomes are highly polymorphic. Multiple alleles are detected and repeat sizes on normal chromosomes range from a low of 7 repeats in DRPLA to 40 repeats in SCA3/MJD. Heterozygosity for these CAG repeats in the normal population are in the range of 0.80 and above. It has been suggested that the 30 extended normal alleles represent founder alleles which are predisposed to expansion.

The SCA2 repeat is highly unusual, because only two alleles are observed in the normal population. A common allele with 22 repeats is found on 92% of chromosomes, a rare second allele in 8% of chromosomes.

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Expansion of the SCA2 CAG repeat on disease chromosomes is relatively moderate and is in the range seen with expansions in the SBMA and Huntington's Disease (HD) genes. The lowest number of repeats causing SCA2 was 36 and the most common disease allele had 37 repeats.

Disease alleles showing 36 repeats have now clearly been established for HD (Rubinsztein et al., 1996, Am. J. Hum. Genet., 59:16-22), although normal elderly individuals with 36-40 repeats exist and the most common HD alleles have >40 repeats. In contrast to SCA1, where normal and disease alleles may differ by only one repeat unit, the longest normal and the shortest SCA2 disease allele are separated by 13 repeats. Once expanded on disease chromosomes, the SCA2 repeat may undergo moderate expansions.

The SCA2 repeat is contained in a novel gene which is transcribed in several tissues including non-neuronal tissues. The gene product, ataxin-2, has a predicted molecular weight of 140 kDa which is in good agreement with the 150 kDa protein observed using a monoclonal antibody to long polyglutamine tracts. A similar pattern of nearly ubiquitous expression has been observed in the other five polyglutamine diseases. Despite the phenotypic overlap of SCA2 with SCA1 and SCA3, the SCA2 gene shows no homology to these genes.

However, ataxin-2 showed significant homologies with another protein (referred to as "A2RP"; see Figure 7). A 42 amino acid domain was identified that was 86% identical between the two proteins. The potential functional importance of this domain was underscored by the fact that it was 100% conserved in the mouse SCA2 homologue (Figure 7). Interestingly, the polyglutamine tract was not conserved in either protein. Since the pathogenesis of polyglutamine containing proteins is still poorly understood, the identification of

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functionally important domains adjacent to polyglutamine tracts may provide the potential for novel strategies to analyze the function of ataxin-2. A gain of function for the mutated ataxin-2 is supported by the fact that transcripts coding for mutated alleles are detected by RT-PCR.

Expansion of the SCA2 repeat appears to be a common cause of a dominant SCA phenotype in non-Portuguese patients. When samples from 45 families with SCA were screened, samples from 8 independent pedigrees showed expansion of the SCA2 repeat. It has been suggested that there are features specific to SCA2, but this assessment was limited to families large enough to be studied by linkage analysis. A better assessment of the range of SCA2 phenotypes is now possible due to the ability to test small families and single cases. patient sample, most patients had a 'typical' SCA phenotype, but some patients had been classified as having an MJD phenotype and others showed a prominent dementia.

When performing direct testing for SCA2 mutations, great caution has to be exercised when interpreting the presence of expanded SCA2 alleles on polyacrylamide gels. A variable number of unrelated PCR fragments may be seen that are in the size range of expanded SCA2 repeats. Although these bands lack the typical `shadow' bands seen when di- or trinucleotide repeats are amplified, they may interfere with the 30 interpretation in some samples. It is therefore recommended to confirm the presence of an expanded allele by Southern blotting and hybridization with a (CAG) 10 oligonucleotide.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided methods for diagnosing spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2, said method comprising:

- a) contacting nucleic acid obtained from a subject suspected of having SCA2 with primers that amplify at least a nucleic acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 containing nucleotides 658-723 of SEQ ID NO:2, under conditions suitable to form a detectable amplification product; and
- b) detecting an amplification product containing substantially expanded CAG repeats above normal, whereby said detection indicates that said subject has SCA2.
- As indicated above, substantially expanded CAG repeats have at least about 10-15 CAG repeats above normal, with at least 13 CAG repeats above normal being especially preferred. Thus, in a preferred diagnostic method, at least about 35 CAG repeats are detected

 20 between nucleotides 657 and 724 of SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6), with the detection of 37 CAG repeats being especially preferred.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided diagnostic systems, 25 preferably in kit form, comprising at least one invention nucleic acid in a suitable packaging material. embodiment, the diagnostic nucleic acids are derived from SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6), preferably derived from 30 nucleotides 163-657 and nucleotides 724-4098, with primers SCA2-A and SCA2-B being especially preferred. In another embodiment, the diagnostic nucleic acids are derived from SEQ ID NO:4. Invention diagnostic systems are useful for assaying for the presence or absence of 35 the extended CAG repeat sequence between nucleotides 657 and 724 of SEQ ID NO: 2 in the SCA2 gene in either genomic

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DNA or in transcribed nucleic acid (such as mRNA or cDNA) encoding SCA2.

A suitable diagnostic system includes at least one invention nucleic acid, preferably two or more invention nucleic acids, as a separately packaged chemical reagent(s) in an amount sufficient for at least one assay. Instructions for use of the packaged reagent are also typically included. Those of skill in the art can readily incorporate invention nucleic probes and/or primers into kit form in combination with appropriate buffers and solutions for the practice of the invention methods as described herein.

As employed herein, the phrase "packaging 15 material" refers to one or more physical structures used to house the contents of the kit, such as invention nucleic acid probes or primers, and the like. packaging material is constructed by well known methods, preferably to provide a sterile, contaminant-free 20 environment. The packaging material has a label which indicates that the invention nucleic acids can be used for detecting a particular extended CAG repeat sequence between the region of genomic DNA corresponding to nucleotides 657 and 724 of SEQ ID NO:2 (Figure 6), 25 thereby diagnosing the presence of, or a predisposition for, spinocerebellar ataxia type 2. In addition, the packaging material contains instructions indicating how the materials within the kit are employed both to detect a particular sequence and diagnose the presence of, or a 30 predisposition for, spinocerebellar ataxia type 2.

The packaging materials employed herein in relation to diagnostic systems are those customarily utilized in nucleic acid-based diagnostic systems. As used herein, the term "package" refers to a solid matrix or material such as glass, plastic, paper, foil, and the

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like, capable of holding within fixed limits an isolated nucleic acid, oligonucleotide, or primer of the present invention. Thus, for example, a package can be a glass vial used to contain milligram quantities of a contemplated nucleic acid, oligonucleotide or primer, or it can be a microtiter plate well to which microgram quantities of a contemplated nucleic acid probe have been operatively affixed.

"Instructions for use" typically include a tangible expression describing the reagent concentration or at least one assay method parameter, such as the relative amounts of reagent and sample to be admixed, maintenance time periods for reagent/sample admixtures, temperature, buffer conditions, and the like.

All U.S. patents and all publications mentioned herein are incorporated in their entirety by reference thereto. The invention will now be described in greater detail by reference to the following non-limiting examples.

The invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the following non-limiting examples.

Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise stated, the present invention

was performed using standard procedures, as described,
for example in Maniatis et al., Molecular Cloning: A

Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press,
Cold Spring Harbor, New York, USA (1982); Sambrook et
al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2 ed.), Cold

Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New
York, USA (1989); Davis et al., Basic Methods in

Molecular Biology, Elsevier Science Publishing, Inc., New York, USA (1986); or Methods in Enzymology: Guide to Molecular Cloning Techniques Vol.152, S. L. Berger and A. R. Kimmerl Eds., Academic Press Inc., San Diego, USA (1987)).

Libraries. Yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) clones were obtained from the CEPH mega-YAC library and grown under standard conditions (Cohen et al., Nature 366:689-701 (1993)). Pl artificial chromosome (PAC) 10 library construction. A 3X human PAC library, designated RPCI-1 (Ioannou et al., Hum. Genet. 219-220 (1994b)) was constructed as described (Ioannou et al., Nat. Genet. 6:84-89 (1994a)). The library was arrayed in 384 well dishes. Pools from portion of the library were screened 15 by PCR with AFM154TC5 (D12S1333) and AFMa128yf1 Subsequently, STSs generated by sequencing (D12S1332). of clones using vector primers were used as hybridization probes to gridded colony filters of the PAC library.

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YAC DNA preparation. YAC clones were grown in selective media, pelleted and resuspended in 3 ml 0.9 M sorbitol, 0.1M EDTA pH 7.5, then incubated with 100 U of lytocase (Sigma) at 37°C for 1 hour. After centrifugation for 5 minutes at 5,000 rpm pellets were resuspended in 3 ml 50 mM Tris pH 7.45, 20 mM EDTA three-tenth ml 10% SDS was added and the mixture was incubated at 65°C for 30 minutes. One ml of 5 M potassium acetate was added and tubes were left on ice for 1 hour, then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. Supernatant was precipitated in 2 volumes of ethanol and pelleted at 6,000 rpm for 15 minutes. Pellets were resuspended in TE, treated with RNase and reextracted with phenol-chloroform.

Analysis by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis.

Agarose plugs of yeast cells containing total YAC DNA
were prepared (Larin and Lehrach, Genet. Rcs. 56:203-208
(1990)) and subjected to pulsed-field gel separation on
1% SeaKem agarose gels in 0.5X TBE using the CHEF DRII
Mapper (Bio-Rad). PAC and BAC clones were sized after
digestion with XbaI and NotI. Gels were blotted onto
Magna NT Nylon membranes using alkaline blotting, UV
cross linked and baked at 80°C for two hours. Membranes
were hybridized with total human DNA, washed according to
standard procedures, and exposed to Kodak XAR5 film. The
sizes of individual clones were determined by comparison
to their relative positions with molecular weight
standards.

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Analysis by fluorescence in situ hybridization PAC or BAC clones were biotinylated by nicktranslation in the presence of biotin-14-dATP using the BioNick Labeling Kit (Gibco-BRL). FISH was performed essentially as described (Korenberg et al., Cytogenet Cell Genet. 69:196-200 (1995)). Briefly, 400 ng of probe DNA was mixed with 8 ng of human Cot 1 DNA (Gibco-BRL) and 2 ug of sonicated salmon sperm DNA in order to suppress possible background produced from repetitive human sequences as well as yeast sequences in the probe. The probes were denatured at 75°C, preannealed at 37°C for one hour, and applied to denatured chromosome slides prepared from normal male lymphocytes (Korenberg et al., 1995, <u>supra</u>). Post-hybridization washes were performed at 40°C in 2X SSC/50% formamide followed by washes in 1X SSC at 50°C. Hybridized DNAs were detected with avidinconjugated fluorescent isothiocyanate (Vector Laboratories). One amplification was performed by using biotinylated anti-avidin. For distinguishing chromosome subbands precisely, a reverse banding technique was used, which was achieved by chromomycin A3 and distamycin A

double staining (Korenberg et al., 1995, <u>supra</u>). The color images were captured by using a Photometrics Cooled-CCD camera and BDS image analysis software (Oncor Imaging, Inc.).

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PAC and BAC DNA preparation. Selected clones were grown overnight in LB media containing 12.5 μ g/ml kanamycin for PACs and 12.5 μ g/ml chloramphenicol for BACs. DNAs were prepared by the alkaline lysis method. PAC DNAs were digested with NotI and subjected to pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. Sizes were determined relative to λ concatamers.

Southern blot analysis. Gel electrophoresis of

DNA was carried out on 0.8% agarose gels in 1x TBE.

Transfer of nucleic acids to Nybond N+ nylon membrane
(Amersham) was performed according to the manufacturer's
instruction. Probes were labelled using RadPrime
Labeling System (BRL). Hybridization was carried out at
42°C for 16 hours in 50% formamide, 5x SSPE, 5x
Denhardt's 0.1% SDS, 100 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm
DNA. The filters were washed once in 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at
room temperature for 20 minutes, and twice in 0.1x SSC,
0.1% SDS for 20 minutes at 65°C. The blots were exposed
onto X-ray film (Kodak, X-OMAT-AR).

Sequencing of PAC endclones. PAC clones were inoculated into 500 ml of LB/kanamycin and grown overnight. DNAs were isolated using QIAGEN columns according to the vendors protocol with one additional phenol/chloroform/isoamylalcohol extraction followed by one additional chloroform/isoamylalcohol extraction. Clones were sequenced using the Gibco-BRL cycle sequencing kit with standard T7 and SP6 primers.

Hybridization of (CAG) $_{10}$ oligonucleotides. Eighty ng of oligonucleotide were 5' end-labeled and hybridized overnight at 42°C in buffer containing 1 M NaC1, 0.05 M Tris HCl pH7, 5.5 mM EDTA, 0.1 % SDS, 1X Denhardt's solution and 200 μ g/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA. Filters were washed 2 times with 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C and exposed to Kodak X-ray film for 24 hours, and

subsequently washed at 65°C, followed by additional

exposure to X-ray film.

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Regression Analysis. The data were fit using the Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) package version 3.10 using the Secant Method (Ralston et al, 1978, Technometrics, 20:7-14). The regression equation was y=A*exp(-ax), where y gives the age of onset and x the number of CAG repeats. The conversion criteria were met with the mean square error of 76.598. The value of parameters are as follows: A=1171.583, a=0.091.

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EXAMPLE 1

Physical Map of the SCA2 region

BAC library construction of total human genomic DNA was performed as described in Shizuya et al., Proc.

- Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:8794-8797 (1992). BAC clones were screened by PCR using STSs (D12S1228, S29, S32, S33).
 Insert size of clones was measured by running pulsed-field gel electrophoresis after digesting DNA with NotI.
- The marker AFMal28yf1 (D12S1332) which was nonrecombinant in several SCA2 pedigrees served as the
 starting point to assemble a PAC contig. This was done
 by screening PCR pools of a 3x human PAC library (Ioannou
 et al., 1994). Two clones were positive for this STS

 (Fig. 1). Single copy sequences from PAC ends were

obtained from P168L1 and used to extend this contig.

Subsequent 'walking steps, however, were undertaken by hybridizing PCR-generated STS fragments to gridded membranes of the 3x PAC library and the 1x total human genome BAC library (Research Genetics).

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In a similar fashion, a second contig was established starting with the telomeric flanking marker AFM154tc5 (D12S1333). A total of two clones were identified by screening of PCR pools. After several walking steps, overlap of the two contigs was established by shared STSs (Fig. 1) and by shared restriction fragments (data not shown). All STSs shown in Fig. 1 were mapped back to human chromosome 12 by PCR analysis of a human/Chinese hamster somatic hybrid cell line, HHW582, which contains CHR 12 as the only human chromosome, and by analysis of a chromosome 12 specific lambda library, LL12NS01 (both from Coriell Cell Repositories). Map position in 21q24.1 for clones B295CO5, P191C5 and P65I22 was confirmed using FISH (Fig. 1b).

At the same time contigs were constructed for the other flanking markers AFM240wel (D12S1328), AFM291xe9 (D12S1329), and markers WI-4176 and WI-6850 (data not shown). These contigs did not overlap with one another, nor with the AFMal28yf1/AFM154tc5 contig.

All PAC and BAC clones were sized by pulsed-field electrophoresis after digestion with NotI. Overlap of clones was initially determined by shared STS content, and subsequently confirmed by hybridization of selected clones to Southern blots of NotI/XbaI digests of clones.

The dense localization of STSs allowed the
precise positioning of YACs that had been identified by
screening of PCR pools of the CEPH mega-YAC library with
either AFMa128yf1 or AFM154tc5. The only YAC that was

positive for both AFMal28yfl (D12S1332) and AFM154tc5, Y884_h_ll, contained an approximately 200 kb interstitial deletion. A small portion of this deletion was not covered by any of the other YAC clones.

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EXAMPLE 2

Identification of SCA2-related trinucleotide repeats

Since we had observed marked anticipation in one pedigree with SCA2, we identified clones containing trinucleotide repeats. EcoRI digests of a minimal tiling path of PAC clones were hybridized with a (CAG)₁₀ nucleotide, as well as other trinucleotide permutations. Three CAG positive bands of distinct sizes were identified in the contig.

PAC clone P65I22 was digested with Sau3A and subcloned into the pBluescript SK (+) phagemid (Stratagene). After transfection into DH5 α , bacterial colonies were screened for poly-CAG containing inserts using the methods described above. Positive clones were sequenced using the Circum Vent cycle sequencing kit (New England Biolabs) with end-labeled T3 and T7 primers. However, no reliable sequence could be obtained from the initial plasmid PL65I22. Therefore, this plasmid was digested with BssHII, recloned into the pBluescript plasmid, and CAG-positive clones sequenced with primers corresponding to the following nucleotides of the vector sequence (primer A: 828-848, primer B: 547-565). sequence of this plasmid, designated PL65I22B, allowed the generation of primers SCA2-A and SCA2-B, which were used to confirm the sequence flanking the CAG repeat.

Plasmid PL65I22B containing an extended CAG repeat that appeared to be embedded into a long open reading frame (ORF) (Figure 2; SEQ ID NO:1). Sequence analysis of this plasmid appeared to be extremely

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difficult due to the abundant presence of premature terminations (see below). The CAG repeat in PL65I22B was twice interrupted and had the following structure (CAG)₈CAA(CAG)₄CAA(CAG)₈. Four additional PAC clones and one BAC clone contained the SCA2 repeat, and all clones had 22 repeats with two CAA interruptions. Analysis of the genomic DNA sequence flanking the CAG repeat suggested the presence of an open reading frame (see also Figure 6) and a potential splice site 3' of the CAG repeat (vertical arrow in Figure 2).

The difficulties encountered in sequencing this region suggested that stable secondary structures might be formed in this GC-rich region. Previous analysis of trinucleotide repeats predisposed to expansion had suggested that these regions are predicted to form hairpin structures. We used an up-dated version of the DNA-FOLD Program (SantaLucia et al., 1996, Biochemistry, 35:3555-3562) for secondary structure predictions.

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Subsequent analysis of the sequence flanking the CAG repeat using the OLIGO Program indicated that it contained several palindromic sequences predicted to form hairpin lcops. Despite the predicted hairpin structures sufficient sequence information was generated to design primers flanking the CAG repeat for the PCR analysis of patient samples.

Example 3

Genomic analysis of an extended CAG SCA2 repeat

Using primer pairs SCA2-A and B, genomic DNAs from normal controls and SCA2 patients were amplified and separated by agarose gel electrophoresis. The best results were obtained at an annealing temperature of 63°C with denaturation times of 90 sec.

Eighty ng each of primers SCA2-A (5'-GGG CCC CTC ACC ATG TCG-3') and SCA2-B (5'-CGG GCT TGC GGA CAT TGG-3') were added to 20 ng of human DNA with standard PCR buffer and nucleotide concentrations. After an initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 minutes, 35 cycles were repeated with denaturation at 96°C for 1.5 minutes, an annealing temperature of 63°C for 30 seconds, extension at 72°C for 1.5 minutes, and a final extension of 5 minutes at 72°C.

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PCR products obtained by PCR amplification of genomic DNAs were separated by electrophoresis through 2% agarose gels in 1x TBE buffer at 10 V/cm. Gels were transferred to nylon membranes (MSI, Westborough, MA) using standard procedures for Southern blotting.

Membranes were hybridized with a (CAG)₁₀ oligonucleotide and processed as described above.

On agarose electrophoresis, a single band of
approximately 130 bp was detected in 20 normal
individuals, although occasionally two closely spaced
bands could be observed. In contrast, all 15 patients
with SCA2 from 3 independent famalies showed one allele
in the normal size range and a larger allele ranging from
approximately 190 to 250 bp. Southern blot analysis
confirmed that both alleles contained CAG repeats.

fragments, DNAs from SCA2 patients and 50 normal
individuals were amplified and PCR products separated by
polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. A common allele of
22 repeats and a less frequent allele of 23 repeats were
observed on normal chromosomes (Figure 3). The allele
frequencies were 0.92 for the smaller and 0.08 for the
larger allele. In patients from three independent SCA2
pedigrees, however, extended alleles ranging from 36 to
52 repeats were observed (Figure 3). Once expanded to

the pathologic range, the SCA2 repeat was moderately unstable and further expansion by 2 to 9 repeat units was observed during meiosis (Figure 3). There was great variability of the age of onset for a given repeat

5 length, especially for disease alleles with 36-40 repeats (Figure 4). Due to the heterogeneous variance of age of onset we used non-linear regression, and an exponential function was successfully fitted (see methods and Figure 4). The smallest expansion of 36 repeats was seen in two men with disease onset at ages 37 and 44. The longest expansion of 52 repeats was seen in a boy with disease onset at 9 years of age.

Sequence analysis of ten normal alleles

revealed that the common normal allele with 22 repeats
contained the two CAA interruptions that were also
detected in plasmid PL65I22B. The less frequent normal
allele with 23 repeats had lost the 5' CAA interruption,
and contained an additional CAG repeat at the 5'-end of
the repeat. In three expanded alleles that were isolated
from SCA2 patients the CAG repeat lacked any
interruptions.

To determine the frequency of mutation in the SCA2 gene in non-Portuguese patients we screened DNAs from 45 independent families with autosomal dominant SCAs. Expansion of the SCA2 repeat was detected in six families. In this set of families, SCA2 expansion was twice as common as expansion in the SCA1 gene. In addition to individuals with a 'typical' SCA phenotype, expansion of the SCA2 repeat was detected in a pedigree with a MJD phenotype and one family with SCA and marked dementia.

EXAMPLE 4

Isolation of human SCA2 cDNA

cDNA library screen: 32P-labeled probes were generated by PCR amplification of plasmid P65I22B using the following 5 primer pair: 65A3: 5'CCGCGGCTGCCAATGTCC, 65B5: 5'GTAACCGTTCGGCGCCCG. A second probe was generated using primers 65A6: 5'GGCTCCCGGCGGCTCCTT; 65B6: 5'TGCTGCTGCTGCTGGGGCTTCAG. Screening of the trisomy 21 fetal brain cDNA library and the Stratagene adult human 10 frontal cortex cDNA Lamba Zap II library was performed using the amplification products generated from plasmid Phages were plated to an average density of 1 x 10⁵ per 150 cm² plate. Plaque lifts of 20 plates (2 x 10⁶ phages) were made using duplicated nylon membranes 15 (Duralose-UV, Stratagene). Hybridization and excision were performed according to the manufacturer's protocol. Hybridized membranes were washed to a final stringency of 0.2x SSC, 0.1x SDS at 65C. The filters were exposed overnight onto X-ray film. Excised phagemids were grown 20 overnight in 5ml LB medium containing 50 ug/ml of ampicillin.

Using PCR-generated fragments containing nucleotides 39-237 and 262 to 397 (according to the 25 sequence shown in Figure 2) we initially screened a human adult frontal cortex library (Stratagene). Through screening of 0.8 x 106 clones, two positive clones, S1 and S2, were identified. To obtain additional clones, 2x106 30 clones of a human fetal brain library generated from a fetus with trisomy 21 (Yamakawa et al., 1995, Hum. Mol. Genet., 4:709-716) were screened using the same PCRgenerated fragments. A total of 15 clones were obtained, all of which were partially sequenced to determine alignment of clones. These clones appeared to belong to 35 a total of two classes of clones (designated F1.1 through F1.7 and F2.1 through F2.8) that contained long portions

of the 3' untranslated region and a poly-A tail (Figure 5). Both classes of clones extended 40 and 265 bp 5' of the CAG repeat in the coding region of the SCA2 gene.

To obtain cDNA sequence for the 5' end of the SCA2 coding region, placental poly-T selected placental mRNAs (Clontech) were transcribed with MMLV reverse transcriptase and amplified with the following primer pairs: SCA2-A30: 5'CCGCCCGCTCCTCACGTGT, SCA2-A31:

5'ACCCCCGAGAAAGCAACC; SCA2-B30: 5'-CCGTTGCCGTTGCTACCA. The sequences for primers SCA2-A30 and A31 were obtained from genomic sequence, and are located 5' to the stop codon preceding the putative initiator methionine. The sequence for SCA2-B30 was obtained from the 5' end of cDNA clones F1.1 and F1.2. The amplicons obtained by RT-PCR were directly sequenced.

The composite of the human SCA2 cDNA sequence assembled from several overlapping cDNA clones is shown 20 in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:2). The longest open reading frame consists of 3936 bp and ends with a TAA termination The stop codon is followed by 364 bp of 3' untranslated sequence. The CAG repeat is located in the 5'end of the coding region. The putative translation start site follows an in frame stop codon located 78 bp 25 The predicted molecular weight for the SCA2 translation product is 140.1 kDa with the CAG trinucleotide repeat predicted to code for glutamine. In analogy to the SCA1 gene product, we propose the name 30 ataxin-2 for the SCA2 gene product.

The cDNA sequence was compared against the GenBank database using the FASTA sequence alignment algorithms and the TIGR database. The predicted protein sequence was compared against the SwissProt database and the predicted translation products of the GenBank database. These searches revealed no significant

similarities to genes of known function except for limited homologies to the GLI-Krueppel related protein YY1 (nucleotides 45 to 586, odds against chance occurrence 6.6×10^{-7}).

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However, significant similarities were detected with two partial cDNA transcripts in the TIGR database (THC148678, H03566, odds against chance similarity <10⁻³¹). Complete sequence analysis of these cDNA clones (purchased from ATCC) revealed significant homologies with ataxin-2. This protein was named ataxin-2 related protein (A2RP). The region showing the most significant homology including a domain of 42 amino acids with 86% identity (codons 243-284 of the consensus sequence) is shown in Figure 7. This domain is also 100% conserved in mouse ataxin-2. Despite the significant homologies, the polyglutamine tract in ataxin-2 was replaced with an interrupted polyproline tract in the related A2RP human protein and was reduced to one glutamine in the mouse SCA2 homologue (see Figure 7).

Example 6 RT-PCR and Northern blot analysis:

25 RNA isolation and reverse transcription was carried out using well-known methods (Huynh et al., 1994, Hum. Mol. Genet., 3:1075-1079). RNAs were isolated from lymphoblastoid cell lines established from patients and unrelated spouses in the FS pedigree with SCA2 (Pulst et al., 1993, Nat. Genet., 5:8-10). Multiple tissue Northern blots were purchased from Clontech. For amplification, primers located in two exons (SCA-A and SCA-B14, see also Figure 6) were chosen so that genomic DNA was not amplified. The sequence for SCA-B14 was:

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Using RT-PCR, it was determined that the SCA2 CAG repeat was transcribed in lymphoblastoid cell lines. In cDNAs from SCA2 patients, transcription from both the normal and the expanded allele was detected using 5 oligonucleotide primers that flank the repeat. Northern blot analysis, the SCA2 gene was determined to be widely expressed. A strong signal corresponding to a 4.5 kb transcript was detected in all brain regions This transcript was also detected in RNAs isolated from heart, placenta, liver, skeletal muscle, 10 and pancreas. Little transcript was detected in lung and no transcription was detectable in kidney. A much fainter transcript of 7.5 kb could be seen in RNAs isolated from some brain regions and in some peripheral 15 tissues.

EXAMPLE 7 Isolation of mouse SCA2 cDNA

To identify mouse SCA2 cDNA clones, the Stratagene Lambda ZAP newborn mouse brain cDNA library was screened with a human SCA2 cDNA clone. Six clones were identified and sequenced. A full-length mouse SCA2 cDNA is set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

SUMMARY OF SEOUENCES

SEQ ID NO:1 is the genomic nucleic acid sequence set forth in Figure 2.

SEQ ID NO:2 is the nucleic acid sequence (and the deduced amino acid sequence) of a cDNA encoding a human-derived SCA2 protein of the present invention (also set forth in Figure 6).

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SEQ ID NO:3 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the human-derived SCA2 protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

SEQ ID NO:4 is the nucleic acid sequence (and the deduced amino acid sequence) of a cDNA encoding a mouse-derived SCA2 protein of the present invention.

SEQ ID NO:5 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the mouse-derived SCA2 protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1)	GENERAL	INFORMATION:
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- (i) APPLICANT: CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING SPINOCEREBELLAR ATAXIA-2 AND PRODUCTS RELATED THERETO
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 5
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: Campbell & Flores LLP
 - (B) STREET: 4370 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 700
 - (C) CITY: San Diego
 - (D) STATE: California
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 92122
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

- (A) NAME: Ramos, Robert T.
- (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 37,915
- (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: FP CE 2563
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: (619) 535-9001
 - (B) TELEFAX: (619) 535-8949
- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 516 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: both
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: both
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)
 - (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

TTGGTAGCAA CGGAAACGGC GGCGGCGCGT TTCGGCCCGG CTCCCGGCGG CTCCTTGGTC 60

TCGGCGGGCC TCCCCGCCCC TTCGTCGTCG TCCTTCTCCC CCTCGCCAGC CCGGGCGCCC 120

CTCCGGCCGC GCCAACCCGC GCCTCCCCGC TCGGCGCCCG CCGCGTTCCG 180

	<u></u>
52	
GCGTCTCCTT GGCGCGCCC GCTCCCGGCT GTCCCCGCCC GGCGTGCGAG CCGGTGTATG	240
GGCCCCTCAC CATGTCGCTG AAGCCCCAGC AGCAGCAGCA GCAGCAGCAG CAACAGCAGC	300
AGCAGCAACA GCAGCAGCAG CAGCAGCAGC AGCCGCCGCC CGCGGCTGCC AATGTCCGCA	360
AGCCCGGCGG CAGCGGCCTT CTAGCGTCGC CCGCCGCCGC GCCTTCGCCG TCCTCGTCCT	420
CGGTCTCCTC GTCCTCGGCC ACGGCTCCCT CCTCGGTGGT CGCGGCGACC TCCGGCGGCG	480
GGAGGCCCGG CCTGGGCAGG TGGGTGTCGG CACCCC	516
(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:	
 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS: (A) LENGTH: 4481 base pairs (B) TYPE: nucleic acid (C) STRANDEDNESS: both (D) TOPOLOGY: both 	
(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: CDNA	
(ix) FEATURE: (A) NAME/KEY: CDS (B) LOCATION: 1634101	
(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:	
ACCCCCGAGA AAGCAACCCA GCGCGCCGCC CGCTCCTCAC GTGTCCCTCC CGGCCCCGGG	60
GCCACCTCAC GTTCTGCTTC CGTCTGACCC CTCCGACTTC CGGTAAAGAG TCCCTATCCG	120
CACCTCCGCT CCCACCCGGC GCCTCGGCGC GCCCGCCCTC CG ATG CGC TCA GCG Met Arg Ser Ala 1	174
GCC GCA GCT CCT CGG AGT CCC GCG GTG GCC ACC GAG TCT CGC CGC TTC Ala Ala Ala Pro Arg Ser Pro Ala Val Ala Thr Glu Ser Arg Arg Phe 5 10 15 20	222

GCC GCA GCT CCT CGG AGT CCC GCG GTG GCC ACC GAG TCT CGC CGC TTC Ala Ala Ala Ala Pro Arg Ser Pro Ala Val Ala Thr Glu Ser Arg Arg Phe 10 15 20

GCC GCA GCC AGG TGG CCC GGG TGG CGC TCC CAG CGG CCG GCG CGG Ala Ala Ala Arg Trp Pro Gly Trp Arg Ser Leu Gln Arg Pro Ala Arg 25 30 35

CGG AGC GGG CGG GGC GGC GGC GCG GCC CCG GGA CCG TAT CCC TCC Arg Ser Gly Arg Gly Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Gly Pro Tyr Pro Ser 40 45 50

	TCC Ser								414
	CGG Arg								462
	TTC Phe								510
	GCG Ala 120								558
	TCC Ser								606
	TGC Cys								654
	CAG Gln								702
	CAG Gln								750
	GGC Gly 200								798
	TCC Ser			Ser					846
	GCG Ala								894
	AAC Asn								942
	AAT Asn								990
	GAA Glu 280	Val					Gly	:	1038

TTT AAA ACT TAC AGT CCG AAG TGT GAT TTG GTA CTT GAT GCC GCA CAT 1086 Phe Lys Thr Tyr Ser Pro Lys Cys Asp Leu Val Leu Asp Ala Ala His 300 GAG AAA AGT ACA GAA TCC AGT TCG GGG CCG AAA CGT GAA GAA ATA ATG 1134 Glu Lys Ser Thr Glu Ser Ser Ser Gly Pro Lys Arg Glu Glu Ile Met GAG AGT ATT TTG TTC AAA TGT TCA GAC TTT GTT GTG GTA CAG TTT AAA 1182 Glu Ser Ile Leu Phe Lys Cys Ser Asp Phe Val Val Gln Phe Lys 330 335 GAT ATG GAC TCC AGT TAT GCA AAA AGA GAT GCT TTT ACT GAC TCT GCT 1230 Asp Met Asp Ser Ser Tyr Ala Lys Arg Asp Ala Phe Thr Asp Ser Ala 350 345 ATC AGT GCT AAA GTG AAT GGC GAA CAC AAA GAG AAG GAC CTG GAG CCC 1278 Ile Ser Ala Lys Val Asn Gly Glu His Lys Glu Lys Asp Leu Glu Pro 360 365 TGG GAT GCA GGT GAA CTC ACA GCC AAT GAG GAA CTT GAG GCT TTG GAA 1326 Trp Asp Ala Gly Glu Leu Thr Ala Asn Glu Glu Leu Glu Ala Leu Glu 375 AAT GAC GTA TCT AAT GGA TGG GAT CCC AAT GAT ATG TTT CGA TAT AAT 1374 Asn Asp Val Ser Asn Gly Trp Asp Pro Asn Asp Met Phe Arg Tyr Asn 390 395 GAA GAA AAT TAT GGT GTA GTG TCT ACG TAT GAT AGC AGT TTA TCT TCG 1422 Glu Glu Asn Tyr Gly Val Val Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ser Ser Leu Ser Ser 410 415 TAT ACA GTG CCC TTA GAA AGA GAT AAC TCA GAA GAA TTT TTA AAA CGG 1470 Tyr Thr Val Pro Leu Glu Arg Asp Asn Ser Glu Glu Phe Leu Lys Arg GAA GCA AGG GCA AAC CAG TTA GCA GAA GAA ATT GAG TCA AGT GCC CAG 1518 Glu Ala Arg Ala Asn Gln Leu Ala Glu Glu Ile Glu Ser Ser Ala Gln 445 440 TAC AAA GCT CGA GTG GCC CTG GAA AAT GAT GAT AGG AGT GAG GAA GAA 1566 Tyr Lys Ala Arg Val Ala Leu Glu Asn Asp Asp Arg Ser Glu Glu Glu 455 460 465 AAA TAC ACA GCA GTT CAG AGA AAT TCC AGT GAA CGT GAG GGG CAC AGC 1614 Lys Tyr Thr Ala Val Gln Arg Asn Ser Ser Glu Arg Glu Gly His Ser 470 475 ATA AAC ACT AGG GAA AAT AAA TAT ATT CCT CCT GGA CAA AGA AAT AGA 1662 Ile Asn Thr Arq Glu Asn Lys Tyr Ile Pro Pro Gly Gln Arg Asn Arg 495 485 490 GAA GTC ATA TCC TGG GGA AGT GGG AGA CAG AAT TCA CCG CGT ATG GGC 1710 Glu Val Ile Ser Trp Gly Ser Gly Arg Gln Asn Ser Pro Arg Met Gly 505 510

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						GGT Gly										1806
						TGC Cys 555										1854
						AAC Asn									CCT Pro · 580	1902
						CCC Pro										1950
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Arg	Met	Ser 615	Ser	Glu	Gly	CCT Pro	Pro 620	Arg	Met	Ser	Pro	Lys 625	Ala	Gln	Arg	2046
His	Pro 630	Arg	Asn	His	Arg	GTT Val 635	Ser	Ala	Gly	Arg	Gly 640	Ser	Ile	Ser	Ser	2094
Gly 645	Leu	Glu	Phe	Val	Ser 650	CAC His	Asn	Pro	Pro	Ser 655	Glu	Ala	Ala	Thr	Pro 660	2142
Pro	Val	Ala	Arg	Thr 665	Ser	CCC Pro	Ser	Gly	Gly 670	Thr	Trp	Ser	Ser	Val 675	Val	2190
Ser	Gly	Val	Pro 680	Arg	Leu	TCC	Pro	Lys 685	Thr	His	Arg	Pro	Arg 690	Ser	Pro	2238
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Pro	Gln 710	Ala	Gly	Ile	Ile	CCA Pro 715	Thr	Glu	Ala	Val	Ala 720	Met	Pro	Ile	Pro	2334
						GCT Ala										2382

CCI Pro	TCT Ser	AGT Ser	GAG Glu	GCT Ala 745	Lys	GAT Asp	TCC Ser	AGG Arg	CTT Leu 750	Gln	GAI Asp	CAG Gln	AGG Arg	CAG Gln 755	AAC Asn	2430
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AGC Ser	TTC Phe	TCA Ser 775	AAA Lys	GCT Ala	GAA Glu	AAC Asn	AAA Lys 780	GGT Gly	ATA Ile	TCA Ser	CCA Pro	GTT Val 785	GTT Val	TCT Ser	GAA Glu	2526
His	Arg 790	Lys	CAG Gln	Ile	Asp	Asp 795	Leu	Lys	Lys	Phe	Lys 800	Asn	Asp	Phe	Arg	2574
Leu 805	Gln	Pro	AGT Ser	Ser	Thr 810	Ser	Glu	Ser	Met	Asp 815	Gln	Leu	Leu	Asn	Lys 820	2622
Asn	Arg	Glu	GGA Gly	Glu 825	Lys	Ser	Arg	Asp	Leu 830	Ile	Lys	Asp	Lys	Ile 835	Glu	2670
Pro	Ser	Ala	840	Asp	Ser	Phe	Ile	Glu 845	Asn	Ser	Ser	Ser	Asn 850	Cys	Thr	2718
Ser	Gly	Ser 855	AGC Ser	Lys	Pro	Asn	Ser 860	Pro	Ser	Ile	Ser	Pro 865	Ser	Ile	Leu	2766
Ser	Asn 870	Thr	GAG Glu	His	Lys	Arg 875	Gly	Pro	Glu	Val	Thr 880	Ser	Gln	Gly	Val	2814
Gln 885	Thr	Ser	AGC Ser	Pro	Ala 890	Cys	Lys	Gln	Glu 	Lys 895	Asp	Asp	Lys	Glu	Glu 900	2862
Lys	Lys	Asp	GCA Ala	Ala 905	Glu	Gln	Val	Arg	Lys 910	Ser	Thr	Leu	Asn	Pro 915	Asn	2910
Ala	Lys	Glu	TTC Phe 920	Asn	Pro	Arg	Ser	Phe 925	Ser	Gln	Pro	Lys	Pro 930	Ser	Thr	2958
Thr	Pro	Thr 935	TCA Ser	Pro	Arg	Pro	Gln 940	Ala	Gln	Pro	Ser	Pro 945	Ser	Met	Val	3006
GGT	CAT His 950	CAA Gln	CAG Gln	CCA Pro	Thr	CCA Pro 955	GTT Val	TAT Tyr	ACT Thr	Gln	CCT Pro 960	GTT Val	TGT Cys	TTT Phe	GCA Ala	3054

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CCT ATG ACG Pro Met Thr 985				
CCA AAT ATG Pro Asn Met 1000		Arg Gln Asp		
ATG CAC CCA Met His Pro				
GCT TAC TCC Ala Tyr Ser			Ser Pro Gln	
CAG CCC CTT Gln Pro Leu 1050	Val Gln His			
GTC TAT AGT Val Tyr Ser 1065				Met
ACA CAC GCC Thr His Ala 1080		Leu Val Ser		
GCT CAT GAG Ala His Glu 5				
AAC AAG GAG . Asn Lys Glu			Phe Ala Ile	
CTT GCT CAG (Leu Ala Gln (1130				
CCA CAC CCT (Pro His Pro (1145				Gln
CAT GGT GGA A His Gly Gly 9 1160		Ala Pro Ser		
CAG GCC GCC (Gln Ala Ala (5				

														TCC Ser		3774
	1190			-1-		1195	_				1200					
														GCA Ala		3822
1205		AIG	Jer	ADII	1210		Der	FIO	9411	1215		1110	110	ALG	1220	
														GCG		3870
GIII	GIII	1111	Val	1225		116	nis	PIO	1230		Val	GIII	PIO	Ala 123	_	
														CAG		3918
Tnr	ASI	Pro	1240		Met	Ala	HIS	1245		GIN	Ala	HIS	125	Gln O	ser	
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GIÀ	мес	1255		ser	HIS	Pro	1260		HIS	АТА	Pro	1265		Leu	мет	
															GCA	4014
Tnr	1270		Pro	Pro	GIĀ	1275		GIN	Ата	Ата	1280		GIN	Ser	AIa	
														ATG		4062
1285		Pro	lle	Pro	1290		Thr	Inr	Ala	1295		Pro	Tyr	Met	1300	
							CAC					TAAC	GCT(3CC		4108
His	Pro	Ser	Val	1305		His	His	GIn	1310		Leu					
CTG	BAGG#	AAC C	CGAA	AGGC(CA A	ATTCO	CCTC	TC	CCTT	CTAC	TGCT	TCT	ACC 2	AACT	GGAAGC	4168
ACAC	IAAAE	ACT A	AGAA:	TTC	AT T	ratt:	rtgt:	r TT	LAAA 1	TAT	ATA	rg tt (GAT 1	TTCT.	rgtaac	4228
ATC	CAATA	AGG A	AATGO	CTAAC	CA G	rtcac	CTTG	C AG	rgga	AGAT	ACT"	rgga	CCG 2	AGTA	GAGGCA	4288
TTT	AGGAI	ACT I	rggg	GCT	T T	CAT	AATT(C CA	ratgo	CTGT	TTC	AGAG:	rcc (CGCA	GGTACC	4348
CCA	GCTC:	rgc 1	rtgc	CGAA	AC TO	EGAA (GTTA:	r TT	ATTT?	CTTA	ATA	ACCC:	rtg i	AAAG'	ICATGA	4408
ACA	CATC	AGC I	ragcz)AAA	SA AG	CAATE	CAAG	A GTO	SATTO	CTTG	CTG	TAT:	rac :	rgct	AAAAA	4468
AAA	LAAA	AAA A	AAA													4481

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1312 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

Met Arg Ser Ala Ala Ala Pro Arg Ser Pro Ala Val Ala Thr Glu Ser Arg Arg Phe Ala Ala Ala Arg Trp Pro Gly Trp Arg Ser Leu Gln 25 Arg Pro Ala Arg Arg Ser Gly Arg Gly Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Gly 40 Pro Tyr Pro Ser Ala Ala Pro Pro Pro Pro Gly Pro Gly Pro Pro Pro Ser Arg Gln Ser Ser Pro Pro Ser Ala Ser Asp Cys Phe Gly Ser Asn Gly Asn Gly Gly Gly Ala Phe Arg Pro Gly Ser Arg Arg Leu Leu Gly Leu Gly Gly Pro Pro Arg Pro Phe Val Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Ala 105 Ser Pro Gly Ala Pro Pro Ala Ala Pro Thr Arg Ala Ser Pro Leu Gly 115 Ala Arg Ala Ser Pro Pro Arg Ser Gly Val Ser Leu Ala Arg Pro Ala 135 Pro Gly Cys Pro Arg Pro Ala Cys Glu Pro Val Tyr Gly Pro Leu Thr 150 155 165 170 Gln Gln Gln Gln Gln Gln Gln Gln Gln Pro Pro Ala Ala Ala Asn Val Arg Lys Pro Gly Gly Ser Gly Leu Leu Ala Ser Pro Ala 195 200 Ala Ala Pro Ser Pro Ser Ser Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ser Ala Thr Ala Pro Ser Ser Val Val Ala Ala Thr Ser Gly Gly Gly Arg Pro Gly 230 Leu Gly Arg Gly Arg Asn Ser Asn Lys Gly Leu Pro Gln Ser Thr Ile 245 Ser Phe Asp Gly Ile Tyr Ala Asn Met Arg Met Val His Ile Leu Thr 260 265 Ser Val Val Gly Ser Lys Cys Glu Val Gln Val Lys Asn Gly Gly Ile 280

Tyr Glu Gly Val Phe Lys Thr Tyr Ser Pro Lys Cys Asp Leu Val Leu

Asp Ala Ala His Glu Lys Ser Thr Glu Ser Ser Ser Gly Pro Lys Arg 315

Glu Glu Ile Met Glu Ser Ile Leu Phe Lys Cys Ser Asp Phe Val Val

Val Gln Phe Lys Asp Met Asp Ser Ser Tyr Ala Lys Arg Asp Ala Phe

Thr Asp Ser Ala Ile Ser Ala Lys Val Asn Gly Glu His Lys Glu Lys

Asp Leu Glu Pro Trp Asp Ala Gly Glu Leu Thr Ala Asn Glu Glu Leu 380

Glu Ala Leu Glu Asn Asp Val Ser Asn Gly Trp Asp Pro Asn Asp Met

Phe Arg Tyr Asn Glu Glu Asn Tyr Gly Val Val Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ser

Ser Leu Ser Ser Tyr Thr Val Pro Leu Glu Arg Asp Asn Ser Glu Glu

Phe Leu Lys Arg Glu Ala Arg Ala Asn Gln Leu Ala Glu Glu Ile Glu

Ser Ser Ala Gln Tyr Lys Ala Arg Val Ala Leu Glu Asn Asp Asp Arg 460

Ser Glu Glu Lys Tyr Thr Ala Val Gln Arg Asn Ser Ser Glu Arg 475

Glu Gly His Ser Ile Asn Thr Arg Glu Asn Lys Tyr Ile Pro Pro Gly

Gln Arg Asn Arg Glu Val Ile Ser Trp Gly Ser Gly Arg Gln Asn Ser

Pro Arg Met Gly Gln Pro Gly Ser Gly Ser Met Pro Ser Arg Ser Thr

Ser His Thr Ser Asp Phe Asn Pro Asn Ser Gly Ser Asp Gln Arg Val

Val Asn Gly Gly Val Pro Trp Pro Ser Pro Cys Pro Ser Pro Ser Ser

Arg Pro Pro Ser Arg Tyr Gln Ser Gly Pro Asn Ser Leu Pro Pro Arg 575

Ala Ala Thr Pro Thr Arg Pro Pro Ser Arg Pro Pro Ser Arg Pro Ser 585 Arg Pro Pro Ser His Pro Ser Ala His Gly Ser Pro Ala Pro Val Ser Thr Met Pro Lys Arg Met Ser Ser Glu Gly Pro Pro Arg Met Ser Pro Lys Ala Gln Arg His Pro Arg Asn His Arg Val Ser Ala Gly Arg Gly 635 Ser Ile Ser Ser Gly Leu Glu Phe Val Ser His Asn Pro Pro Ser Glu 645 Ala Ala Thr Pro Pro Val Ala Arg Thr Ser Pro Ser Gly Gly Thr Trp Ser Ser Val Val Ser Gly Val Pro Arg Leu Ser Pro Lys Thr His Arg Pro Arg Ser Pro Arg Gln Asn Ser Ile Gly Asn Thr Pro Ser Gly Pro 690 Val Leu Ala Ser Pro Gln Ala Gly Ile Ile Pro Thr Glu Ala Val Ala Met Pro Ile Pro Ala Ala Ser Pro Thr Pro Ala Ser Pro Ala Ser Asn 725 Arg Ala Val Thr Pro Ser Ser Glu Ala Lys Asp Ser Arg Leu Gln Asp 740 745 Gln Arg Gln Asn Ser Pro Ala Gly Asn Lys Glu Asn Ile Lys Pro Asn 760 Glu Thr Ser Pro Ser Phe Ser Lys Ala Glu Asn Lys Gly Ile Ser Pro 770 775 780 Val Val Ser Glu His Arg Lys Gln Ile Asp Asp Leu Lys Lys Phe Lys Asn Asp Phe Arg Leu Gln Pro Ser Ser Thr Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Gln 805 810 Leu Leu Asn Lys Asn Arg Glu Gly Glu Lys Ser Arg Asp Leu Ile Lys Asp Lys Ile Glu Pro Ser Ala Lys Asp Ser Phe Ile Glu Asn Ser Ser 840 Ser Asn Cys Thr Ser Gly Ser Ser Lys Pro Asn Ser Pro Ser Ile Ser

Pro Ser Ile Leu Ser Asn Thr Glu His Lys Arg Gly Pro Glu Val Thr Ser Gln Gly Val Gln Thr Ser Ser Pro Ala Cys Lys Gln Glu Lys Asp Asp Lys Glu Glu Lys Lys Asp Ala Ala Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ser Thr Leu Asn Pro Asn Ala Lys Glu Phe Asn Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Gln Pro Lys Pro Ser Thr Thr Pro Thr Ser Pro Arg Pro Gln Ala Gln Pro Ser Pro Ser Met Val Gly His Gln Gln Pro Thr Pro Val Tyr Thr Gln Pro Val Cys Phe Ala Pro Asn Met Met Tyr Pro Val Pro Val Ser Pro Gly Val Gln Pro Leu Tyr Pro Ile Pro Met Thr Pro Met Pro Val Asn Gln Ala Lys Thr Tyr Arg Ala Val Pro Asn Met Pro Gln Gln Arg Gln Asp Gln His His Gln Ser Ala Met Met His Pro Ala Ser Ala Ala Gly Pro Pro Ile Ala Ala Thr Pro Pro Ala Tyr Ser Thr Gln Tyr Val Ala Tyr Ser Pro Gln Gln Phe Pro Asn Gln Pro Leu Val Gln His Val Pro His Tyr Gln Ser Gln His Pro His Val Tyr Ser Pro Val Ile Gln Gly Asn Ala Arg Met Met Ala Pro Pro Thr His Ala Gln Pro Gly Leu Val Ser Ser Ser Ala Thr Gln Tyr Gly Ala His Glu Gln Thr His Ala Met Tyr Ala Cys Pro Lys Leu Pro Tyr Asn Lys Glu Thr Ser Pro Ser Phe Tyr Phe Ala Ile Ser Thr Gly Ser Leu Ala Gln Gln Tyr Ala His Pro Asn Ala Thr Leu His Pro His Thr Pro His Pro Gln Pro Ser Ala Thr Pro

Thr Gly Gln Gln Ser Gln His Gly Gly Ser His Pro Ala Pro Ser 1155 1160 1165

Pro Val Gln His His Gln His Gln Ala Ala Gln Ala Leu His Leu Ala 1170 1175 1180

Ser Pro Gln Gln Gln Ser Ala Ile Tyr His Ala Gly Leu Ala Pro Thr 1185 1190 1195 1200

Pro Pro Ser Met Thr Pro Ala Ser Asn Thr Gln Ser Pro Gln Asn Ser 1205 1210 1215

Phe Pro Ala Ala Gln Gln Thr Val Phe Thr Ile His Pro Ser His Val 1220 1225 1230

Gln Pro Ala Tyr Thr Asn Pro Pro His Met Ala His Val Pro Gln Ala 1235 1240 1245

His Val Gln Ser Gly Met Val Pro Ser His Pro Thr Ala His Ala Pro 1250 1255 1260

Met Met Leu Met Thr Thr Gln Pro Pro Gly Gly Pro Gln Ala Ala Leu 1265 1270 1275 1280

Ala Gln Ser Ala Leu Gln Pro Ile Pro Val Ser Thr Thr Ala His Phe 1285 1290 1295

Pro Tyr Met Thr His Pro Ser Val Gln Ala His His Gln Gln Gln Leu 1300 1305 1310

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 3798 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: both
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: both
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 - (B) LOCATION: 50..3457
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

GGCACGAGGT CCCCGCCCGG CGTGCGAGCC GGTGTATGGG CCGCTCACC ATG TCG
Met Ser

1

CTG Leu	Lys	Pro	G CAC	CCG Pro	Gln	CCG Pro	Pro	Ala	CCC Pro	GCC Ala	ACT Thr	Gly	Arg	Lys Lys	CCC Pro	103
GGC	GGC	: GGC	CTG	CTC	TCG	TCG	CCC	GGC	GCC	GCG	CCG	15 GCC	TCG	GCC	GCG	151
	20	1				25			Ala		30	•				
Val 35	ACC	Sex	GCT Ala	' TCC Ser	GTG Val 40	GTG Val	CCG Pro	GCC Ala	CCG Pro	GCC Ala 45	GCG Ala	CCG Pro	GTG Val	GCG Ala	TCT Ser 50	199
TCC Ser	TCG Ser	GCG	GCC Ala	GCG Ala 55	GGC Gly	GGC Gly	GGG Gly	CGT Arg	CCC Pro 60	GGC Gly	CTG Leu	GGC Gly	AGA Arg	GGT Gly 65	CGG Arg	247
Asn	Ser	Ser	70	Gly	Leu	Pro	Gln	P1 0 75	ACG Thr	Ile	Ser	Phe	Asp 80	Gly	Ile	295
Tyr	Ala	Asn 85	Val	Arg	Met	Val	His 90	Ile	CTT Leu	Thr	Ser	Val 95	Val	Gly	Ser	343
Lys	Cys 100	Glu	Val	Gln	Val	Lys 105	Asn	Gly	GGC Gly	Ile	Tyr 110	Glu	Gly	Val	Phe	391
Lys 115	Thr	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Lys 120	Cys	Asp	Leu	GTA Val	Leu 125	Asp	Ala	Ala	His	Glu 130	439
Lys	Ser	Thr	Glu	Ser 135	Ser	Ser	Gly	Pro	AAA Lys 140	Arg	Glu	Glu	Ile	Met 145	Glu	487
Ser	Val	Leu	Phe 150	Lys	Cys	Ser	Asp	Phe 155	GTT Val	Val	Val	Gln	Phe 160	Lys	Asp	535
Thr	Asp	Ser 165	Ser	Tyr	Ala	Arg	Arg 170	Asp	GCT Ala	Phe	Thr	Asp 175	Ser	Ala	Leu	583
Ser	GCA Ala 180	AAG Lys	GTG Val	AAT Asn	Gly	GAG Glu: 185	CAC His	AAG Lys	GAG Glu	Lys	GAC Asp 190	CTG Leu	GAG Glu	CCC Pro	TGG Trp	631
Asp 195	Ala	Gly	Glu	Leu	Thr . 200	Ala	Ser	Glu		Leu 205	Glu	Leu (Glu .	Asn .	As p 210	679
GTG Val	TCT . Ser .	AAT Asn	Gly	TGG Trp 215	GAC Asp	CCC :	AAT (Asn)	Asp	ATG ' Met 1 220	TTT Phe	CGA Arg	TAT Z	Asn (GAA (Glu (225	GAG Glu	727

AAT Asn	TAT Tyr	GGT	GTG Val 230	GTG Val	TCC Ser	ACA Thr	TAT Tyr	GAT Asp 235	Ser	AGT Ser	TTA Leu	TCT Ser	TCA Ser 240	TAT	ACG Thr	775
			Glu												GCA Ala	823
			CAG Gln													871
Ala 275	Arg	Val	GCC Ala	Leu	Glu 280	Asn	Asp	Asp	Arg	Ser 285	Glu	Glu	Glu	Lys	Tyr 290	919
Thr	Ala	Val	CAG Gln	Arg 295	Asn	Cys	Ser	Asp	Arg 300	Glu	Gly	His	Gly	Pro 305	Asn	967
Thr	Arg	Asp	AAT Asn 310	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Pro	Pro 315	Gly	Gln	Arg	Asn	Arg 320	Glu	Val	1015
Leu	Ser	Trp 325	GGA Gly	Ser	Gly	Arg	Gln 330	Ser	Ser	Pro	Arg	Met 335	Gly	Gln	Pro	1063
Gly	Pro 340	Gly	TCC Ser	Met	Pro	Ser 345	Arg	Ala	Ala	Ser	His 350	Thr	Ser	Asp	Phe	1111
Asn 355	Pro	Asn	GCT Ala	Gly	Ser 360	Asp	Gln	Arg	Val	Val 365	Asn	Gly	Gly	Val	Pro 370	1159
Trp	Pro	Ser		Cys 375	Pro	Ser	His	Ser	Ser 380	Arg	Pro	Pro	Ser	Arg 385	Tyr	1207
Gln	Ser	Gly	Pro 390	Asn	Ser	Leu	Pro	Pro 395	Arg	Ala	Ala	Thr	His 400	Thr	Arg	1255
Pro	Pro	Ser 405	AGG	Pro	Pro	Ser	Arg 410	Pro	Ser	Arg	Pro	Pro 415	Ser	His	Pro	1303
Ser	Ala 420	His	GGT	Ser	Pro	Ala 425	Pro	Val	Ser	Thr	Met 430	Pro	Lys	Arg	Met	1351
			GGA Gly													1399

	AAT Asn															1447
	TTT Phe															1495
	AGG Arg															1543
	CCA Pro 500															1591
	AGC Ser															1639
Ala	GGC Gly	Ile	Ile	Pro 535	Ala	Glu	Ala	Val	Ser 540	Met	Pro	Val	Pro	Ala 545	Ala	1687
	CCG Pro															1735
	GAG Glu															1783
	GGG Gly 580															1831
	AAA Lys	_														1879
	CAG Gln															1927
	AGC Ser															1975
							mma	א נחינה	ת ת ת	CAT	7 7 7	אככ	CAA	GCA	A CITT	2023
Glu	GGA Gly															2023

			ACC Thr 680							2119
			AAG Lys							2167
			GCC Ala							2215
			GAG Glu							2263
			CCT Pro							2311
			CGG Arg 760							2359
			GCT Ala							2407
			CCC Pro							2455
			ACG Thr							2503
Arg	${\tt Gly}$	Val	CCA Pro	Asn	Met	Gln	Arg	Gln		2551
			ATG Met 840							 2599
			GCT Ala							2647
			CAG Gln							2695
			GTG Val							2743

ATG ATG GCA Met Met Ala 900					
GCT GCT CAG Ala Ala Gln 915					
CCC AAA TTA Pro Lys Leu					
ATT TCC ACC Ile Ser Thr		Ala Gln G			
CTG CAT CCA Leu His Pro 965					=
CAG CAG CAA Gln Gln Gln 980					
CAG CAC CAT Gln His His 995		Ala Ala Gl			
CAG CAG CAG Gln Gln Gln					
TCC ATG ACA Ser Met Thr		Asn Thr G			Phe Pro
GCA GCA CAA Ala Ala Gln 1045	Gln Thr Val				
GCA TAC ACC Ala Tyr Thr			la His Val		- · · · - · · - · · - · - · - · - · - ·
1060					
1060 CAG TCA GGA Gln Ser Gly 1075		TCT CAT CO	CA ACT GCC	CAT GCG CCA His Ala Pro	
CAG TCA GGA Gln Ser Gly	Met Val Pro 108 ACA CAG CCA	TCT CAT CO Ser His Pr O	CA ACT GCC ro Thr Ala 1085	CAT GCG CCA His Ala Pro	Met Met 1090 CAA AGT 3367

			Ser					His			CAG Gln			GCTG	CC:	3464
TTGG	AGG	AC C	GAAA	AGGCC	A AA	ATCCC	TTCI	TCC	CTTC	TCT	GCTI	CTGC	CCA A	ACCGG	SAAGCA	3524
CAGA	AAAC	TA C	BAACI	TCAT	T GA	\TTTI	GTTI	TTI	IAAA?	GAT	ACAC	TGAT	CTT A	AACAT	CTGAT	3584
AGGA	ATGO	TA A	CAGO	TCAC	T TO	CAGI	GGAG	GAT	CTT	TGG	ACC	AGT	AGA (GCAI	GTAGG	3644
GACT	TGT0	GC 1	GTTC	CAT	LA TI	CCAI	GTGC	TGT	TGC	.GGG	TCCI	rgca <i>i</i>	AGT 2	ACCCF	AGCTCT	3704
GCTT	GCT	SAA A	CTGG	AAGT	T AT	TATT	TTTT	TAF	ATGG	CCT	TGAG	SAGTO	CAT (BAACA	CATCA	3764
GCTAGCAACA GAAGTAACAA GAGTGATTCT TGCT															3798	
(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5: (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS: (A) LENGTH: 1135 amino acids (B) TYPE: amino acid (D) TOPOLOGY: linear																
	Ė)	li) N	OLEC	CULE	TYPE	E: pr	otei	ln								
(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:																
Met 1	Ser	Leu	Lys	Pro 5	Gln	Pro	Gln	Pro	Pro 10	Ala	Pro	Ala	Thr	Gly 15	Arg	
Lys	Pro	Gly	Gly 20	Gly	Leu	Leu	Ser	Ser 25	Pro	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro 30	Ala	Ser	
Ala	Ala	Val 35	Thr	Ser	Ala	Ser	Val 40	Val	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala 45	Ala	Pro	Val	
Ala	Ser 50	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ala 55	Gly	Gly	Gly	Arg	Pro 60	Gly	Leu	Gly	Arg	
Gly 65	Arg	Asn	Ser	Ser	Lys 70	Gly	Leu	Pro	Gln	Pro 75	Thr	Ile	Ser	Phe	Asp 80	
Gly	Ile	Tyr	Ala	Asn 85	Val	Arg	Met	Val	His 90	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ser	Val 95	Val	
Gly	Ser	Lys	Cys 100	Glu	Val	Gln	Val	Lys 105	Asn	Gly	Gly	Ile	Tyr 110	Glu	Gly	
Val	Phe	Lys 115	Thr	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Lys 120	Cys	Asp	Leu	Val	Leu 125	Asp	Ala	Ala	
His	Glu 130	Lys	Ser	Thr	Glu	Ser 135	Ser	Ser	Gly	Pro	Lys 140	Arg	Glu	Glu	Ile	

Met Glu Ser Val Leu Phe Lys Cys Ser Asp Phe Val Val Val Gln Phe 145 150 155 Lys Asp Thr Asp Ser Ser Tyr Ala Arg Arg Asp Ala Phe Thr Asp Ser 165 170 Ala Leu Ser Ala Lys Val Asn Gly Glu His Lys Glu Lys Asp Leu Glu 185 Pro Trp Asp Ala Gly Glu Leu Thr Ala Ser Glu Glu Leu Glu Leu Glu 195 200 Asn Asp Val Ser Asn Gly Trp Asp Pro Asn Asp Met Phe Arg Tyr Asn Glu Glu Asn Tyr Gly Val Val Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ser Ser Leu Ser Ser 230 235 Tyr Thr Val Pro Leu Glu Arg Asp Asn Ser Glu Glu Phe Leu Lys Arg 245 250 Glu Ala Arg Ala Asn Gln Leu Ala Glu Glu Ile Glu Ser Ser Ala Gln 265 Tyr Lys Ala Arg Val Ala Leu Glu Asn Asp Asp Arg Ser Glu Glu Glu Lys Tyr Thr Ala Val Gln Arg Asn Cys Ser Asp Arg Glu Gly His Gly 295 Pro Asn Thr Arg Asp Asn Lys Tyr Ile Pro Pro Gly Gln Arg Asn Arg 310 315 Glu Val Leu Ser Trp Gly Ser Gly Arg Gln Ser Ser Pro Arg Met Gly 325 330 Gln Pro Gly Pro Gly Ser Met Pro Ser Arg Ala Ala Ser His Thr Ser 345 Asp Phe Asn Pro Asn Ala Gly Ser Asp Gln Arg Val Val Asn Gly Gly 360 Val Pro Trp Pro Ser Pro Cys Pro Ser His Ser Ser Arg Pro Pro Ser 370 375 Arg Tyr Gln Ser Gly Pro Asn Ser Leu Pro Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr His Thr Arg Pro Pro Ser Arg Pro Pro Ser Arg Pro Ser Arg Pro Pro Ser 410 His Pro Ser Ala His Gly Ser Pro Ala Pro Val Ser Thr Met Pro Lys 420 425

Arg Met Ser Ser Glu Gly Pro Pro Arg Met Ser Pro Lys Ala Gln Arg His Pro Arg Asn His Arg Val Ser Ala Gly Arg Gly Ser Met Ser Ser Gly Leu Glu Phe Val Ser His Asn Pro Pro Ser Glu Ala Ala Pro Pro Val Ala Arg Thr Ser Pro Ala Gly Gly Thr Trp Ser Ser Val Val Ser Gly Val Pro Arg Leu Ser Pro Lys Thr His Arg Pro Arg Ser Pro 505 Arg Gln Ser Ser Ile Gly Asn Ser Pro Ser Gly Pro Val Leu Ala Ser Pro Gln Ala Gly Ile Ile Pro Ala Glu Ala Val Ser Met Pro Val Pro 530 Ala Ala Ser Pro Thr Pro Ala Ser Pro Ala Ser Asn Arg Ala Leu Thr Pro Ser Ile Glu Ala Lys Asp Ser Arg Leu Gln Asp Gln Arg Gln Asn 565 Ser Pro Ala Gly Ser Lys Glu Asn Val Lys Ala Ser Glu Thr Ser Pro 580 Ser Phe Ser Lys Ala Asp Asn Lys Gly Met Ser Pro Val Val Ser Glu His Arg Lys Gln Ile Asp Asp Leu Lys Lys Phe Lys Asn Asp Phe Arg 610 Leu Gln Pro Ser Ser Thr Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Gln Leu Leu Ser Lys Asn Arg Glu Gly Glu Lys Ser Arg Asp Leu Ile Lys Asp Lys Thr Glu Ala Ser Ala Lys Asp Ser Phe Ile Asp Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Asn 660 Cys Thr Ser Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Asn Ser Pro Ser Ile Ser Pro Ser Met Leu Ser Asn Ala Glu His Lys Arg Gly Pro Glu Val Thr Ser Gln Gly Val Gln Thr Ser Ser Pro Ala Cys Lys Gln Glu Lys Asp Asp Arg 705 715

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Glu Glu Lys Lys Asp Thr Thr Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ser Thr Leu Asn 725 730 735

Pro Asn Ala Lys Glu Phe Asn Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Gln Pro Lys Pro 740 745 750

Ser Thr Thr Pro Thr Ser Pro Arg Pro Gln Ala Gln Pro Ser Pro Ser 755 760 765

Met Val Gly His Gln Gln Pro Ala Pro Val Tyr Thr Gln Pro Val Cys 770 780

Phe Ala Pro Asn Met Met Tyr Pro Val Pro Val Ser Pro Gly Val Gln 785 790 795 800

Pro Leu Tyr Pro Ile Pro Met Thr Pro Met Pro Val Asn Gln Ala Lys 805 810 815

Thr Tyr Arg Ala Gly Lys Val Pro Asn Met Pro Gln Gln Arg Gln Asp 820 825 830

Gln His His Gln Ser Thr Met Met His Pro Ala Ser Ala Ala Gly Pro 835 840 845

Pro Ile Val Ala Thr Pro Pro Ala Tyr Ser Thr Gln Tyr Val Ala Tyr 850 855 860

Ser Pro Gln Gln Phe Pro Asn Gln Pro Leu Val Gln His Val Pro His 865 870 875 880

Tyr Gln Ser Gln His Pro His Val Tyr Ser Pro Val Ile Gln Gly Asn 885 890 895

Ala Arg Met Met Ala Pro Pro Ala His Ala Gln Pro Gly Leu Val Ser 900 905 910

Ser Ser Ala Ala Gln Phe Gly Ala His Glu Gln Thr His Ala Met Tyr 915 920 925

Ala Cys Pro Lys Leu Pro Tyr Asn Lys Glu Thr Ser Pro Ser Phe Tyr 930 935 940

Phe Ala Ile Ser Thr Gly Ser Leu Ala Gln Gln Tyr Ala His Pro Asn 945 950 955 960

Ala Ala Leu His Pro His Thr Pro His Pro Gln Pro Ser Ala Thr Pro 965 970 975

Thr Gly Gln Gln Ser Gln His Gly Gly Ser His Pro Ala Pro Ser 980 985 990

Pro Val Gln His His Gln His Gln Ala Ala Gln Ala Leu His Leu Ala 995 1000 1005 Ser Pro Gln Gln Ser Ala Ile Tyr His Ala Gly Leu Ala Pro Thr 1010 1015 1020

Pro Pro Ser Met Thr Pro Ala Ser Asn Thr Gln Ser Pro Gln Ser Ser 1025 1030 1035 1040

Phe Pro Ala Ala Gln Gln Thr Val Phe Thr Ile His Pro Ser His Val 1045 1050 1055

Gln Pro Ala Tyr Thr Thr Pro Pro His Met Ala His Val Pro Gln Ala 1060 1065 1070

His Val Gln Ser Gly Met Val Pro Ser His Pro Thr Ala His Ala Pro 1075 1080 1085

Met Met Leu Met Thr Thr Gln Pro Pro Gly Pro Lys Ala Ala Leu Ala 1090 1095 1100

Gln Ser Ala Leu Gln Pro Ile Pro Val Ser Thr Thr Ala His Phe Pro 1105 1110 1115 1120

Tyr Met Thr His Pro Ser Val Gln Ala His His Gln Gln Gln Leu 1125 1130 1135

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That which is claimed is:

- 1. Isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SCA2 polypeptide.
- 2. Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises DNA.
- 3. DNA according to claim 2, wherein said DNA is a cDNA.
- 4. DNA according to claim 2, wherein said DNA encodes at least about 10 contiguous amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5.
- 5. DNA according to claim 2, wherein said DNA hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the SCA2 coding portion of nucleotides 1 516 of SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 163-4098 of SEQ ID NO:2, or nucleotides 50-3454 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 6. DNA according to claim 2, wherein said DNA has substantially the same nucleotide sequence as the SCA2 coding portion set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.
- 7. A vector comprising DNA according to claim 2.
- 8. A host cell containing a vector according to claim 7, wherein said cell is a procaryotic cell or a eucaryotic cell.
- 9. A host cell according to claim 8, wherein said cell expresses a functional SCA2 protein.

- 10. An oligonucleotide comprising at least 15 nucleotides capable of specifically hybridizing with a sequence of nucleic acids of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.
- 11. An oligonucleotide according to claim 10, wherein said oligonucleotide is labeled with a detectable marker.
- 12. A kit for detecting mutations and in chromosome 12 at the SCA2 locus in 12q24.1 comprising at least one oligonucleotide according to claim 10.
- 13. Isolated mRNA complementary to DNA according to claim 2.
- 14. An oligonucleotide composition comprising chemical analogues of the nucleic acid of claim 2 operatively linked to a promoter of RNA transcription.
- 15. An antisense oligonucleotide capable of specifically binding to and inhibiting the translation of mRNA according to claim 13.
- 16. Isolated SCA2 polypeptide, or fragments thereof, and functional equivalents thereof.
- 17. Isolated SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 16, wherein said polypeptide comprises substantially the same amino acid sequence as that set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1-165 or amino acids 188-1312 of SEQ ID NO:3, or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that set forth in SEQ ID NO:5.

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- 18. Isolated SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 16, wherein said polypeptide has the same amino acid sequence as that set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, or at least amino acids 1-165 or amino acids 188-1312 of SEQ ID NO:3, or in SEQ ID NO:5.
- 19. Isolated SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 16, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleotide sequence that is substantially the same nucleotide sequence as that set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, nucleotides 163-4098 of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, or nucleotides 50-3454 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 20. Isolated SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 16, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by at least nucleotides 163-4098 set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or at least nucleotides 50-3454 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 21. An SCA2 polypeptide expressed recombinantly in a host cell.
- 22. An SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 21, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleotide sequence that is substantially the same as at least nucleotides 163-4098 set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or at least nucleotides 50-3454 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 23. An SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 21, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by at least nucleotides 163-4098 set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or at least nucleotides 50-3454 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 24. An antibody that specifically binds to a determinant on a SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 16, or active fragment thereof.

- 25. An antibody according to claim 24, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 26. An antibody according to claim 24, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.
- 27. A composition comprising an amount of the antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 13 effective to modulate expression of a human SCA2 polypeptide and an acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through a cell membrane.
- 28. A composition according to claim 27, wherein the oligonucleotide is coupled to a substance which inactivates mRNA.
- 29. A composition according to claim 28, wherein said substance is a ribozyme.
- 30. A composition comprising an amount of an antibody according to claim 24 effective to block function of the SCA2 protein or to block interaction of the SCA2 protein with other proteins or ligands.
- 31. A transgenic nonhuman mammal expressing DNA encoding a SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 2.
- 32. A transgenic nonhuman mammal according to claim 31, wherein said DNA encoding said polypeptide has been mutated as to be incapable of normal polypeptide activity, and wherein the polypeptide so expressed is not native SCA2 polypeptide.

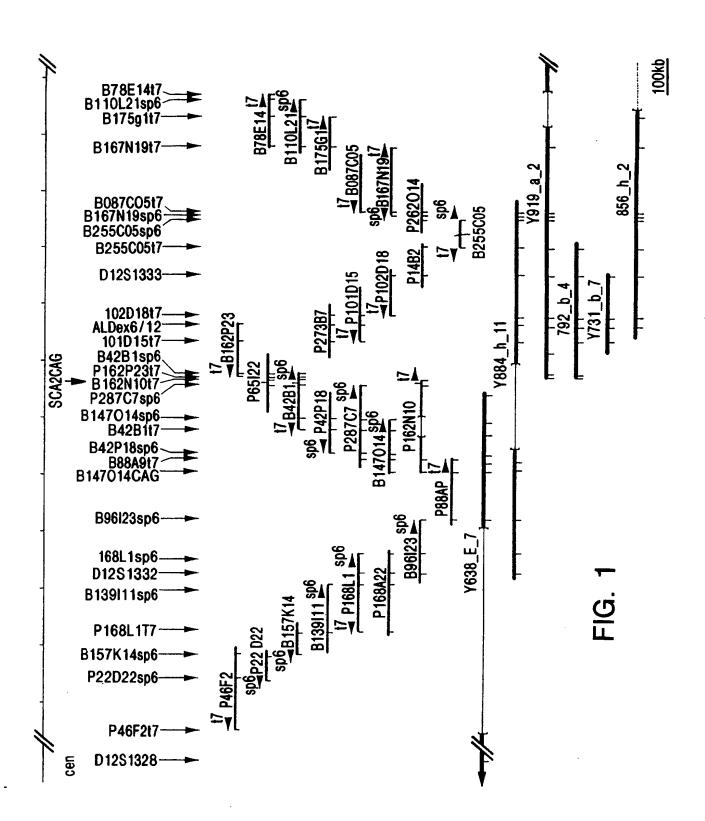
- 33. A transgenic nonhuman mammal, the genome of which comprising antisense DNA complementary to DNA encoding a SCA2 polypeptide according to claim 2, wherein said antisense DNA is transcribed into antisense mRNA complementary to mRNA encoding a human SCA2 polypeptide.
- 34. A transgenic nonhuman mammal according to claim 31, wherein said DNA is operatively linked to an inducible promoter.
- 35. A transgenic nonhuman mammal according to claim 31, wherein said DNA is operatively linked to tissue specific regulatory elements.
- 36. A transgenic nonhuman mammal according to claim 31, wherein the transgenic nonhuman mammal is a mouse.
- 37. A method for identifying nucleic acids encoding a human SCA2 protein, said method comprising:

 contacting a sample containing nucleic acids with a probe according to claim 11, wherein said contacting is effected under high stringency hybridization conditions, and identifying compounds which hybridize thereto.
- 38. A method for identifying compound(s) which bind to a human SCA2 polypeptide, said method comprising contacting cells according to claim 9 with said compound(s) and identifying compounds which bind thereto.
- 39. A method for detecting the presence of a human SCA2 polypeptide, said method comprising contacting a test sample with an antibody according to claim 24, detecting the presence of an antibody-SCA2 complex, and therefor detecting the presence of a human SCA2 polypeptide in said test sample.

- 40. Single strand DNA primers for amplification diagnosis of SCA2, wherein said primers comprise a nucleic acid sequence derived from the nucleic acid according to claim 1 set forth as SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.
- 41. A method for diagnosing spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2, said method comprising:

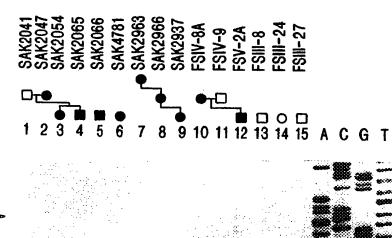
detecting, in said subject, a genomic or transcribed mRNA sequence having an expanded CAG repeat at a location corresponding to between nucleotides 657 and 724 of SEQ ID NO:2.

- 42. A method for diagnosing spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2, said method comprising:
- a) contacting nucleic acid obtained from a subject suspected of having SCA2 with primers that amplify at least a nucleic acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 containing nucleotides 658-723 of SEQ ID NO:2, under conditions suitable to form a detectable amplification product; and
- b) detecting an amplification product containing substantially expanded CAG repeats above normal, whereby said detection indicates that said subject has SCA2.
- 43. A diagnostic kit comprising at least one oligonucleotide according to claim 10 contained in a packaging material.



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- TTGGTAGCAACGGAAACGGCGGCGCGCGCGTTTCGGCCCGGCTCCCGGCGCTCCTTGGTC TCGGCGGGCCTCCCCGCCCTTCGTCGTCGTCCTTCTCCCCCTCGCCAGCCCGGGCGCCCC 61 CTCCGGCCGCCCAACCCGCGCCTCCCCGCTCGGCGCCCGTGCGTCCCCGCCGCGTTCCG 121 GCGTCTCCTTGGCGCCCCGGCTCCCGGCTGTCCCCGCCCGGCGTGTGTATG 181 SCA2-A 241 SCA2-B AGCAGCAACAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCCGCCGCCGCGGCTGCCAATGTCCGCA 301 **AGCCCG**GCGGCAGCGGCCTTCTAGCGTCGCCCGCCGCCGCCGCCCTTCGCCGTCCT 361 CGGTCTCCTCGTCCTCGGCCACGGCTCCCTCCTCGGTGGTCGCGGCGACCTCCGGCGGCG 421 GGAGGCCCGGCCTGGGCAG GTGGGTGTCGGCACCCC 481
 - FIG. 2



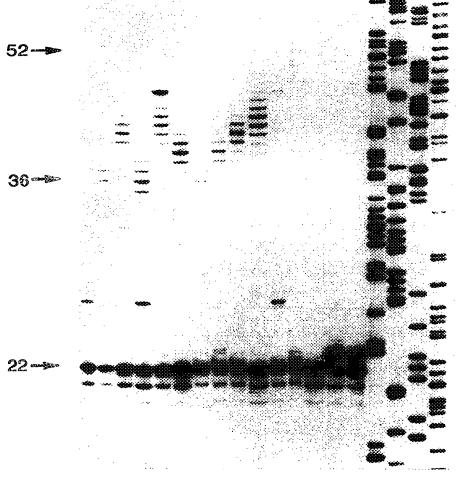
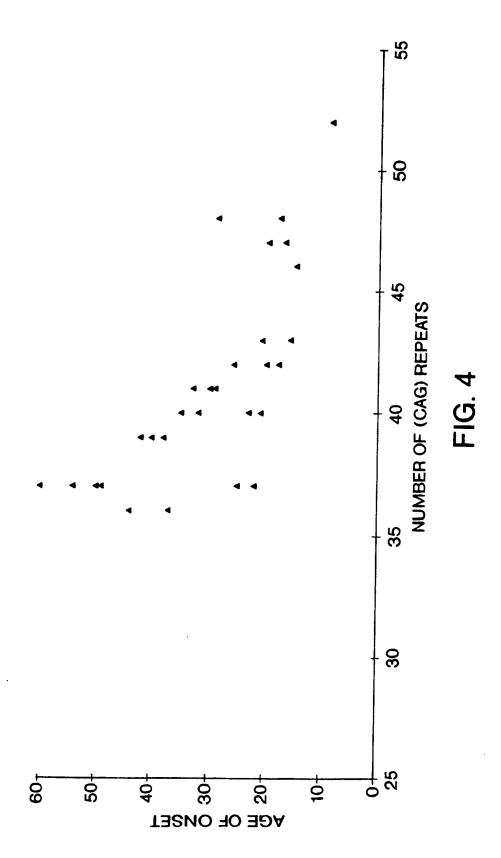
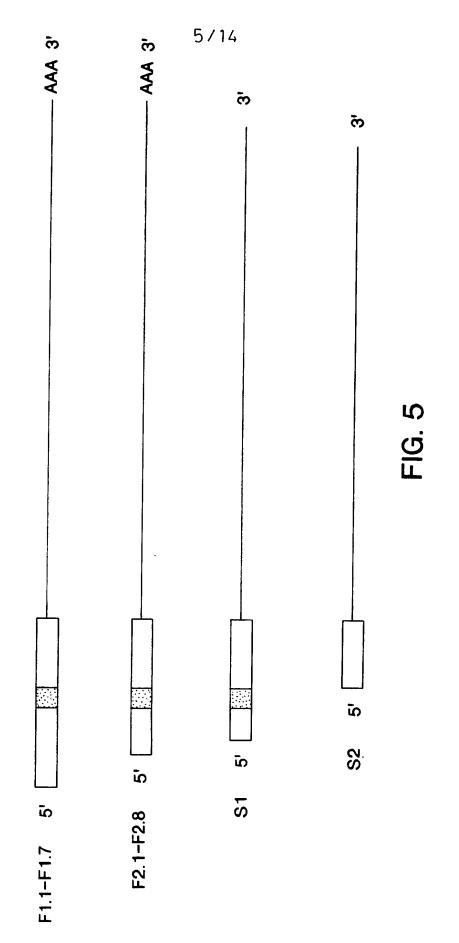


FIG. 3



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н г У	ACCCCCGAGAAAGCAACCCAGCGCCCCCCCCCTCACGTGTCCCTCCC	09
	GCCACCICACGIICIGCIICCGICIGACCCCTCCGACITCCGGTAAAGAGTCCCTATCCG	120
	CACCTCCGCTCCCACCCGGCGCCTCGGCGCCCCCCCCTCCGATGCGCTCAGCGGCCGCA	180
	M R S A A A	G
	CIO	240
	APRSPAVATESRRFAARWP	\sim
	GGGTGGCGCTCGAGCGGCCGGCGGCGGCGGGGGGGGGGG	\sim
	G W R S L Q R P A R R S G R G G G A A	46
	CCGGGACCGTATCCCTCCGCCGCCCCTCCCCCGCCCGGCCCCGGCCCCCCTCCCTCCGG	360
	PGPYPSAAPPPPGPGPPSR	99
	CAGAGCTCGCCTCCCTCCGCCTCAGACTGTTTTGGTAGCAACGGCAACGGCGGCGGCGCGCG	711
	QSSPPSASDCFGSNGNGGAA	ന
	TTTCGGCCCGGCTCCCGGCGGCTCCTTGGTCTCGGCGGGCCTCCCCGCCCCTTCGTCG	480
	FRPGSRRLLGLGLGGPPRPFVV	106
	GTCCTTCTCCCCCTCGCCAGCCCGGGCGCCCCTCCGGCCGCGCCAACCCGGCGCCTCCCCG	540
	V L L P L A S P G A P P A A P T R A S P	126
	じつ	600
•	L G A R A S P P R S G V S L A R P A P G	146
	SCA2-A	
	TGTCCCCGCCCGGCGTGCGGTGTATGGGCCCCTCACCATGTCGCTGAAGCCCCAG	660
	CPRPACEPVYGPLTMSLKPO	166
	CAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAACAGCAGCAGCAGCAACAGCAG	720
		186

780	206	840	2	0	4	9	9	1020	286		1080	306	1140	ũ	S	346	3	_	m	æ	1380	0	4	426	S	446
SCA2 - B CAGCCGCCGCCGCGGCTGCCAATGTCCGCAAGCCCGGCAGCGCAAGCGCAATGTCGCAAGCCCAAGCGCAAGCCCGCAAGCCAAGCCCAAGCGCAAGCCCGGCAAGCCCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCGCCAAGCCAAGCCCAAGCCAAGCCCAAGCCAAGCCCAAGCCCAAGCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAAGCCCCAACCCCAACCCAACCCAACCCAACCCCAACCCCAACCCC	Q P P P A A A N V R K P G	. cecececececetrecetetetetete	PAAPSPSSSSVS	TCCTCGGTGGTCGCGGCGACCTCCGGCGGCGGGAGGC	SSVVAATSGGGRP	AGTAACAAAGGACTGCCTCAGTCTACGATTTCTTTTG	SNKGLPQSTISFD	ATGGTTCATATACTTACATCAGTTGTTGGCTCCAAAT	MVHILTSVVGSKO	SCAZ-14B	. GGTATATATGAAGGAGTTTTTAAAACTTACAGTCCGAAGTGTGATTTGG <u>TACTTGATGCC</u>	GIYEGVFKTYSPKCDLVLDA	GCACATGAGAAAGTACAGAATCCAGTTCGGGGCCGAAACGTGAAGAAATAATGGAGAGT	7 A H E K S T E S S G P K R E E I M E S	l ATTTTGTTCAAATGTTCAGACTTTGTTGTGGGTACAGTTTAAAGATATGGACTCCAGTTAT	7 I L F K C S D F V V Q F K D M D S S Y	l GCAAAAAGAGATGCTTTTACTGACTCTGCTATCAGTGCTAAAGTGAATGGCGAACACAAA	7 A K R D A F T D S A I S A K V N G E H K	L GAGAAGGACCTGGAGCCCTGGGATGCAGGTGAACTCACAGCCAATGAGGAACTTGAGGCT	7 E K D L E P W D A G E L T A N E E L E A	l TTGGAAAATGACGTATCTAATGGATGGGATCCCAATGATATGTTTCGATATAATGAAGAA	7 LENDVSNGWDPNDMFRYNEE	l AATTATGGTGTAGTGTCTACGTATGATAGCAGTTTATCTTCGTATACAGTGCCCTTAGAA	7 N Y G V V S T Y D S S L S S Y T V P L E	l AGAGATAACTCAGAAGAATTTTTAAAACGGGAAGCAAGGGCAAACCAGTTAGCAGAAGAA	27 R D N S E E F L K R E A R A N Q L A E E 4
721	187	781	207	841	227	901	247	961	267		1021	287	1081	307	1141	327	120]	34.	1261	367	132]	38,	138]	40,	1441	42.

	ATTGAGTCAAGTGCCCAGTACAAAGCTCGAGTGGCCCTGGAAAATGATGATAGGAGTGAG	1560
	I E S S A Q Y K A R V A L E N D D R S E	466
	ACAGCAGTTCAGAGAAATTCC	1620
	TAVQRNS	486
	AAATATATTCCTCCTGGACAAAGAAATAG	1680
	K Y I P P G Q R	506
1681	SCCTGGA	1740
	S D d O D W d d S N	526
	ACTTCAGATTTCAACCCGAATTCTGGTTCAG?	1800
	T S D S M P M S G S	546
	TGGCCATCGCCTTGCCCATCTCCTTCCTCTCC	1860
	W P S P C P S P S R	266
	AACTCTTCCACCTCGGGCAGCCACCCCTACACGG	1920
	a l s	586
	CCATCCAGACCCCGTCTCACCCCTCTGCTCATGGT	1980
	S d H S d d W S d	909
	CCTAAACGCATGTCTTCAGAAGGGCCTCCAAGGATGTCCCC	2040
	P K R M S S E G P P R M S	626
	CGAAATCACAGAGTTTCTGCTGGGAGGGGGTTCCATATCCAG	2100
	R N H R V S A G R G S I S	646
	CACAACCCACCCAGTGAAGCAGCTACTCCTCCAGTAGC	2160
	H N P P S E A A T P P V A	999
		2220
	PSGGTWSSVVSGVPRLSPKT	686
	ITCTCCCAGACAGAACAGTATTGGAAATACCCCCAGTGGGCCA	2280
687	SPRONSIGNTPSG	706

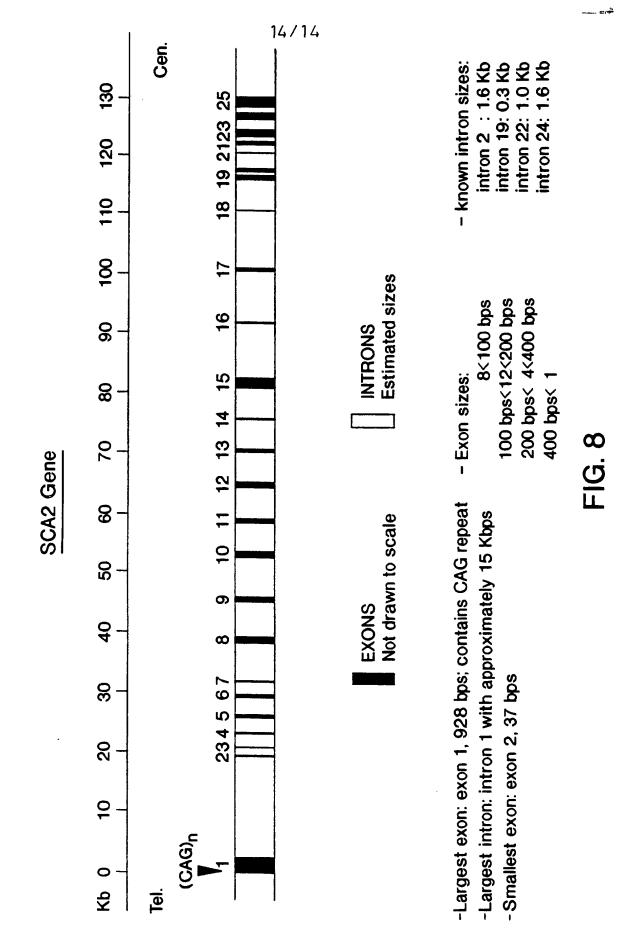
2281	GCTTCTCCCCAAGCTGGTATTATTCCAACTGAAGCTGTTGCCATGCCTATTCCAGCTGCA	2340
707	ø	726
2341	:CCTGCTAGTCCTGCATCGAACAGAGCTGTTACCCCTTCTAGTGAG	2400
727	PASPASNRAVTPSSEA	746
2401	CTTCAAGATCAGAGGCAGAACTCTCCTGCAGGGAATAAAGA	4
747	LODORONSPAGNKEN	766
2461	ACATCACCTAGCTTCTCAAAAGCTGAAAACAAAGGTATATCACC	ហ
167	TSPSFSKAENKGISP	α
2521	'AGAAAACAGATTGATGTTTAAAGAAATTTAAGAATGATTTTAGG	u
787	RKQIDDLKKFKNDFR	90
2581	'ACTTCTGAATCTATGGATCAACTACTAAAAAAAAAAAAA	Ó
807	S E S	
2641	TTGATCAAAGACAAAATTGAACCAAGTGCTAAGGATTCTTTCATTGAA	-
827	LIKDKIEPSAKDSFIE	46
2701	'AACTGTACCAGTGGCAGCAAGCCGAATAGCCCCAGCATTTCCCCT	~
847	NCTSGSSKPNSPSISP	99
2761	AACACGGAGCACAAGAGGGGACCTGAGGTCACTTCCCAAGGGGTTCAG	00
867	NTEHKRGPEVTSOGVO	98
2821	GCATGTAAACAAGAGAAGACGATAAGGAAGAGAAGAAGACGC	00
887	A C K Q E K D D K E E K K D A A	90
2881	'AAATCAACATTGAATCCCAATGCAAAGGAGTTCAACCCACGTTCCTTC	O
907	K S T L N P N A K E F N P R S F	2
2941	CCTTCTACTACCCCAACTTCACCTCGGCCTCAAGCACAACCTAG	0
927	PSTTPTSPRPQAQPSP	4
3001	CATCAACAGCCAACTCCAGTTTATACTCAGCCTGTTTGTT	Ō
947	HQQPTPVYTQPVCFAP	996
3061	CCAGTCCCAGTGAGCCCAGGCGTGCAACCTTTATACCCAATACC	3120
967	P V P V S P G V Q P L Y P I P	986

FIG. 6F

S0 VRKPGGSGLL GRKPGG.GLL	100 GRGRNSNKGL GRGRNSSKGL .RGQSTGKGP -RGKG-	150 VFKTYSPKCD VFKTYSPKCD IFKTLSSKFE -FKT-S-K	200 MDSSYAKRDA TDSSYARRDA VDFNYATKDK -DYAD-
PQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQPPPAAAN PQPQPPAPAT PQPPPPQQHQ ERPPAPAT	ATSGGGRPGL AAAGGGRPGL	QVKNGGIYEG QVKNGGIYEG KVKNGTTYEG -VKNGYEG	SDFVVVQFKD SDFVVVQFKD SDVMLVHFRN SDV-F
QQQQQQQQQQ ER:	APSSVVA APAAPVASSS	TSVVGSKCEV TSVVGSKCEV TAVVGSTCDV T-VVGS-C-V	EIMESILFKC EIMESVLFKC DIVDTMVFKP -IFK-
	SSSVSSSSAT AAVTSASVVP A	YANMRMVHIL YANVRMVHIL YNNSRMLHFL Y-N-RM-H-L	TESSSGPKRE TESSSGPKRE SEPAGGPRRE -EGP-RE
VYGPLTMSLK HEGPLTMSLK LA	51 ASPAAAPSPS SSPGAAP.AS PGAAAIGS	101 PQSTISFDGI PQPTISFDGI PQSPV.FEGV PQF-G-	151 LVLDAAHEKS LVLDAAHEKS LAVDAVHRKA LDA-H-K-
Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus	Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus	Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus	Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus

250 I DVSNGWDPND I DVSNGWDPND DVSNGWDPND D D-SNGWDPN-	300 SEEFLKREAR ANQLAEEIES SEEFLKREAR ANQLAEEIES SEEFRQRELR AAQLAREIES SEEFRE-R A-QLA-EIES	350 ENKYIPPGQR DNKYIPPGQR EGKYIP	
ANEELEALEN ASEELE.LEN NSDDYD.LES		EREGHSINTR DREGHGPNTR GRESPSLASR - RER	
LEPWDAGELT LEPWDAGELT LQRWEGGD.S LWG	VVSTYDSSLS SYTVPLERDN VVSTYDSSLS SYTVPLERDN VKTTYDSSLS SYTVPLEKDN VTYDSSLS SYTVPLE-DN	ENDD.RSEEE KYTAVQRNSS ENDD.RSEEE KYTAVQRNCS ENDDGRTEEE KHSAVQRQGS ENDD-R-EEE KAVQRS	
FTDSAISA KVNGEHKEKD FTDSALSA KVNGEHKEKD FTDSAIAMNS KVNGEHKEKV FTDSA KVNGEHKEK		ENDD.RSEEE ENDD.RSEEE ENDDGRTEEE ENDD-R-EEE	
FTDSAISA FTDSALSA FTDSAIAMNS FTDSA	251 MFRYNEENYG MFRYNEENYG MFKFNEENYG MF NEENYG	301 SAQYKARVAL SAQYKARVAL SPQYRLRIAM S-QYR-A-	351 NR NR
Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus	Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus	Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP Consensus	Ataxin-2 Mouse Ataxin-2 A2RP

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

nal Application No Interr

PCT/US 97/07725

a. classification of subject matter IPC 6 C12N15/00 C12N15/12

C12Q1/68

C12N5/10 A01K67/027 G01N33/577

C07K14/47

C07K16/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C12N CO7K C12Q G01N A01K IPC 6

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT							
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.					
E	WO 97 17445 A (CENTRE NAT RECH SCIENT ;INST NAT SANTE RECH MED (FR); TORA LAZSLO) 15 May 1997 see page 18, line 25 - page 21, line 14	1-30, 37-43					
X	NATURE, vol. 378, no. 6555, 23 November 1995, pages 403-406, XP002009617 TROTTIER Y ET AL: "POLYGLUTAMINE EXPANSION AS A PATHOLOGICAL EPITOPE IN HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AND FOUR DOMINANT CEREBELLAR ATAXIAS" see the whole document	24,25,39					

Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 August 1997 16.09.97 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31.70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Hornig, H Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Inter vial Application No

Inter vial Application No
PCT/US 97/07725

C.(Continua	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	NEUROLOGY, vol. 45, no. S4, April 1995, MINNEAPOLIS, US, page A422 XP002039148 SM. PULST ET AL.: "Genetic and physical map of the spinocerebellar ataxia 2 (SCA2) region on human chromosome" abstract no. 931S see abstract	1-43
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Ρ,Χ	HUMAN MOLECULAR GENETICS, vol. 5, no. 12, December 1996, pages 1887-1892, XP002027564 STEVANIN G ET AL: "SCREENING FOR PROTEINS WITH POLYGLUTAMINE EXPANSIONS IN AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT CEREBELLAR ATAXIAS" see the whole document	24,25,39
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